BIG COMICS SPECIAL

犬を飼う

Inu o kau/Soshite Neko o kau/Niwa no nagame/Sannin no hibi/Yakusoku no chi

谷口ジロー

Jiro Taniguchi Presents

BIG COMICS SPECIAL 犬を飼う 谷口ジロー Inu o kau/Soshite Neko o kau/Niwa no nagame/Sannin no hibi/Yakusoku no chi

小学館

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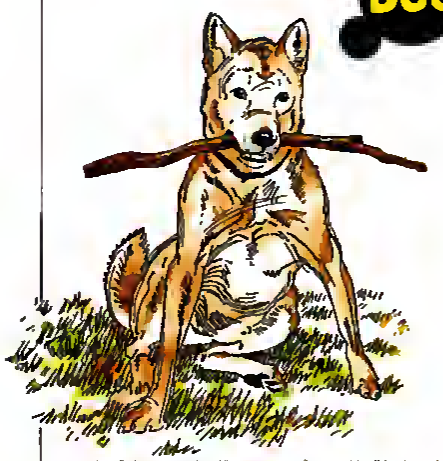
RAISING A DOG



Inu o kau Sashite Neko o kau Niwa no nagame Sanmin no hiru Yokuyoku no ch

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RAISING A DOG

TABLE OF CONTENTS

RAISING A DOG 3

AND THEN... CARING FOR A CAT 43

VIEW OF THE BACKYARD 69

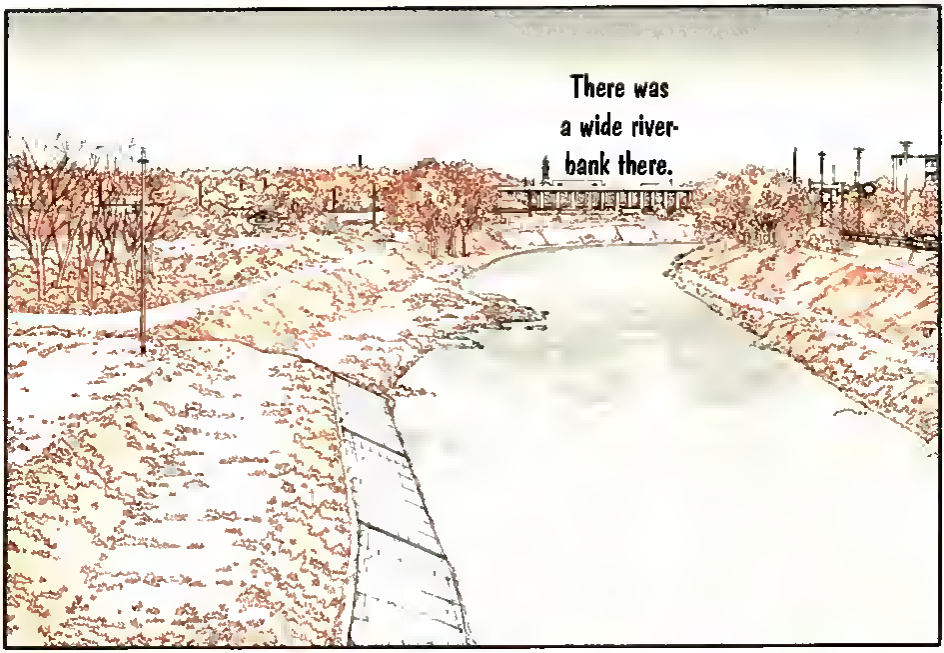
THREE PEOPLE'S DAYS 93

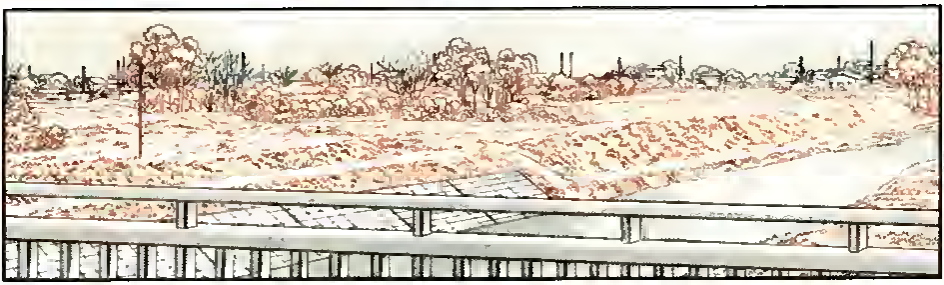
PROMISED LAND 121

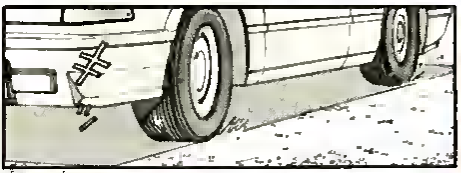
LIST OF FIRST PUBLICATION DATES 171

AFTERWORD 172

RAISING A DOG

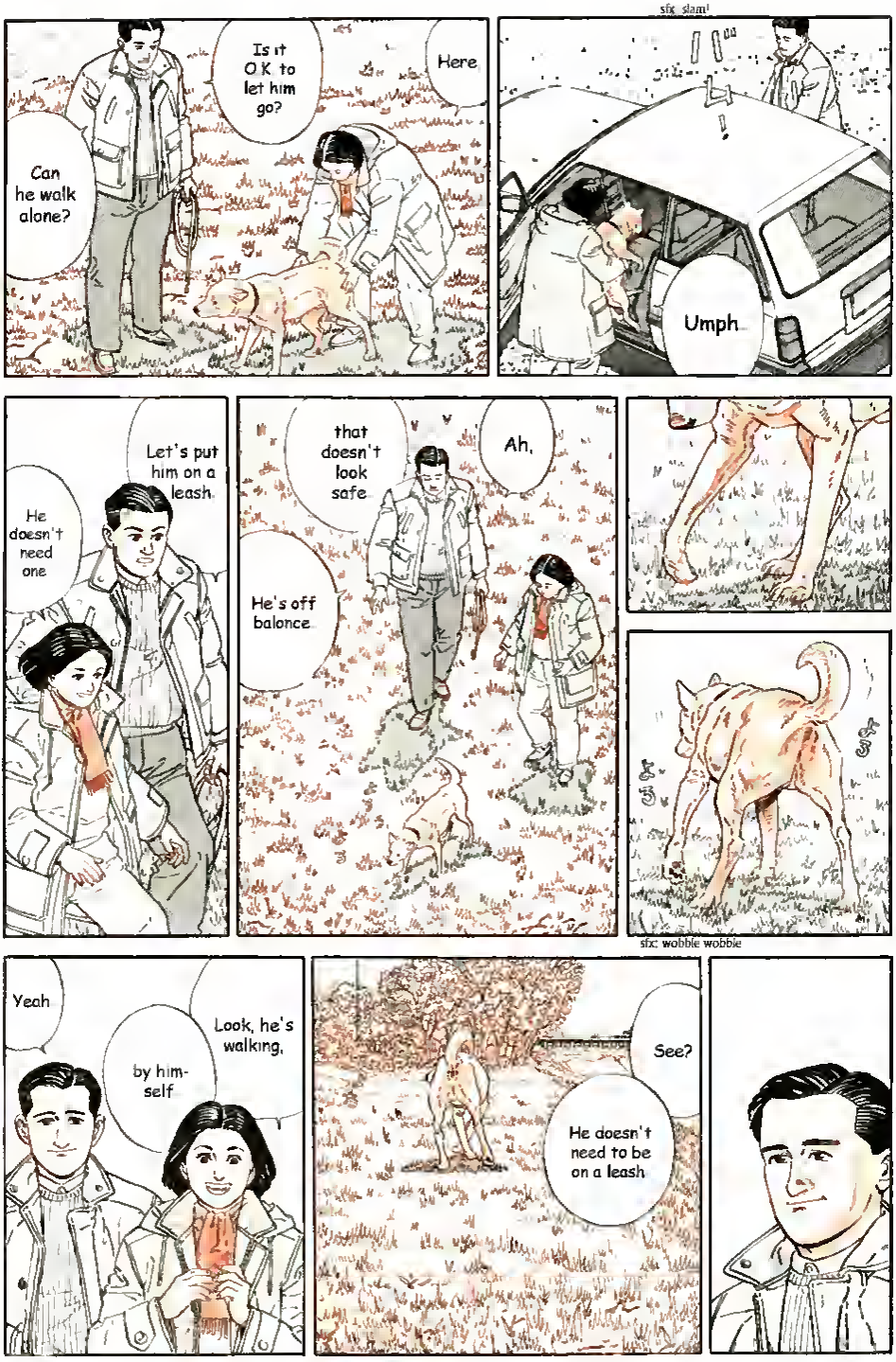

There was
a wide river-
bank there.

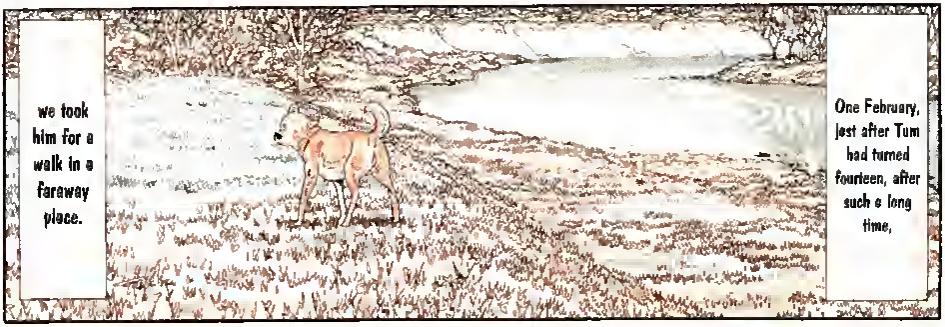



sfx screech

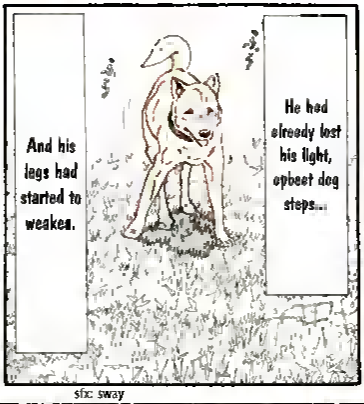
we're
here.
Look,
Kuuun

sfx vrrr

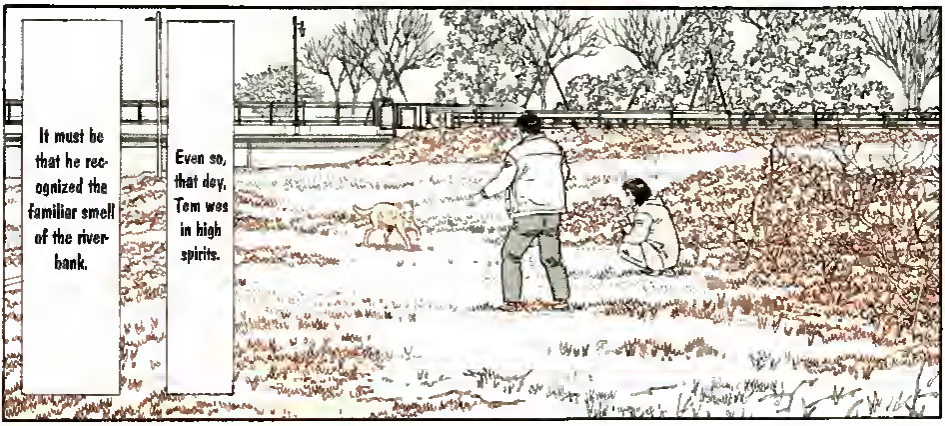

Can he walk alone?
Is it O.K. to let him go?
Here
sfx: slam!
Umph
Let's put him on a leash.
He doesn't need one
that doesn't look safe
Ah,
He's off balance
sfx: wobble wobble
Yeah
Look, he's walking, by himself
See?
He doesn't need to be on a leash


we took him for a walk in a faraway place.
One February, just after Tom had turned fourteen, after such a long time,

His steps weren't stable ...

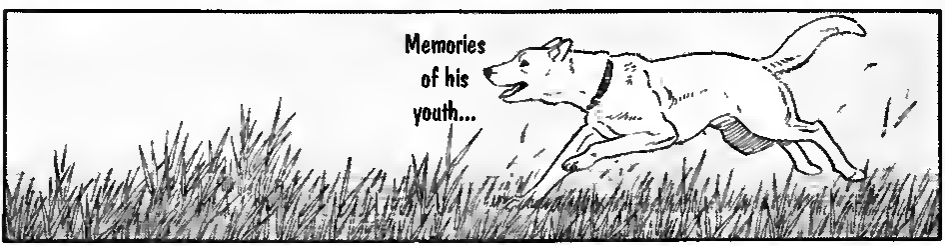

And his legs had started to weaken.
He had already lost his light, upbeat dog steps...

sfx: sway


It must be that he recognized the familiar smell of the riverbank.
Even so, that day, Tom was in high spirits.

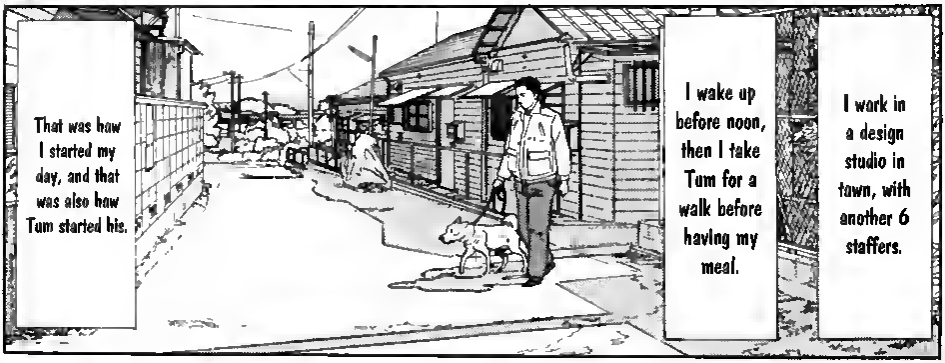
We lost ourselves in the memories of the good old days.

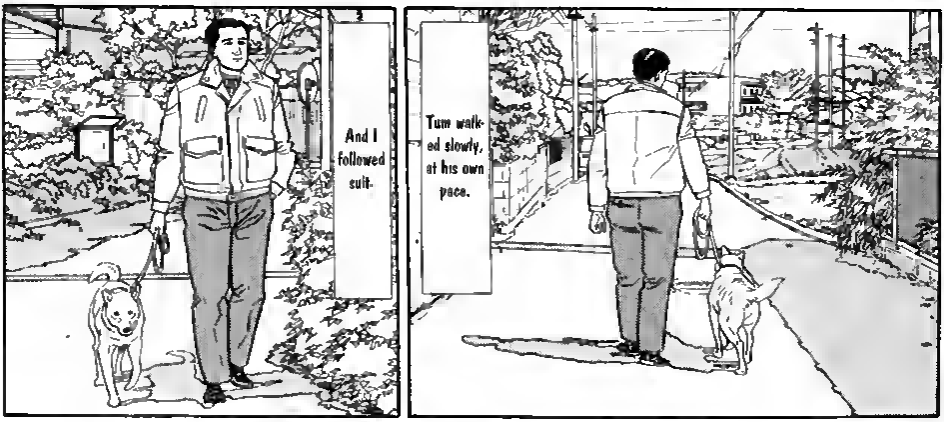
When Tum ran and jumped in joy around us.


Memories of his youth...

And all of those joyful days.

sfx: click
Let's go!
Hey, Tum!
Kuun
sfx: fumbles
February 27th, clear sky.


That was how I started my day, and that was also how Tum started his.
I wake up before noon, then I take Tum for a walk before having my meal.
I work in a design studio in town, with another 6 staffers.

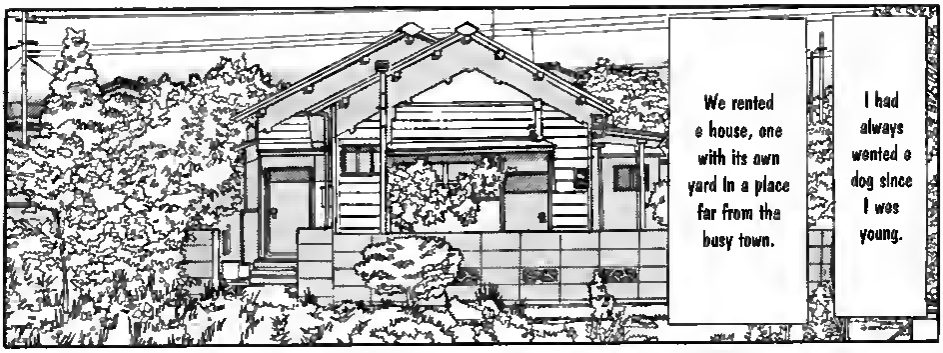

And I followed suit.
Tum walked slowly, at his own pace.

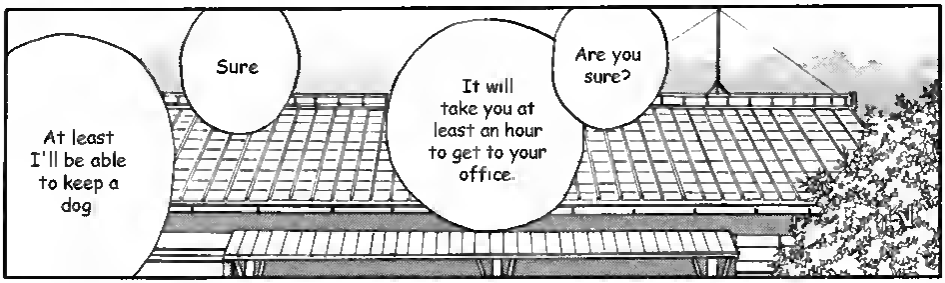
Tum was a good boy,
When he wanted to defecate,
he'd pee on his front leg.
Sometimes,
but he was no longer strong enough to raise his hind leg when urinating.
and if I hadn't carefully supported his back, he could have had sat on his own feces and rolled all the way on his back.
Oops!
he'd squat himself down all of a sudden,

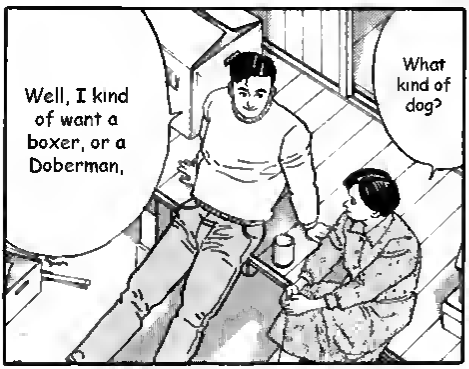
Taking him on his evening walk had become my wife's routine
Is something wrong?
He's just getting old
Oh, is that so?
Poor him
His legs are getting weak.
So we have to get him walking
Why don't you cuddle him?
Poor little dog
What a pitiful dog...
Come, Tum.
Let's do our best.
"It's not 'poor him'!"
"It's even more pitiful when he can't walk anymore," my wife told me, unable to talk back at the woman.

Tum had become too weak to stand on his own.
March 29th, cloudy.
Kuu
Kuu
I didn't know there was such a thing
Wow!
...
This should be all right, right?
What do you think?
Hey,
I bought this
Yep, that's more like it
This should help make Tum feel more comfortable
CLICK
Umph
Come, Tum.
let's go for a walk

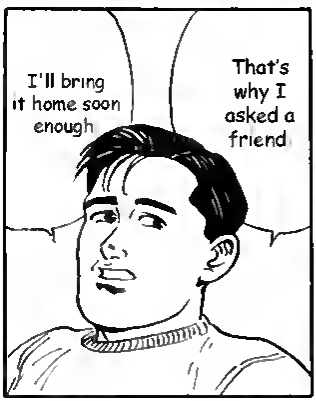
I helped support Tum so that his front legs didn't get burdened by his weight.
He was a little unstable, but he was walking.
Things are slowly changing around here
Maybe
here, too
So they're building new houses
Back when this was a wooded area,
it was a good spot to take Tum on a walk
It was my dream to live in this neighborhood.
Fourteen years ago.


We rented a house, one with its own yard in a place far from the busy town.
I had always wanted a dog since I was young.


At least I'll be able to keep a dog
Sure
It will take you at least an hour to get to your office.
Are you sure?

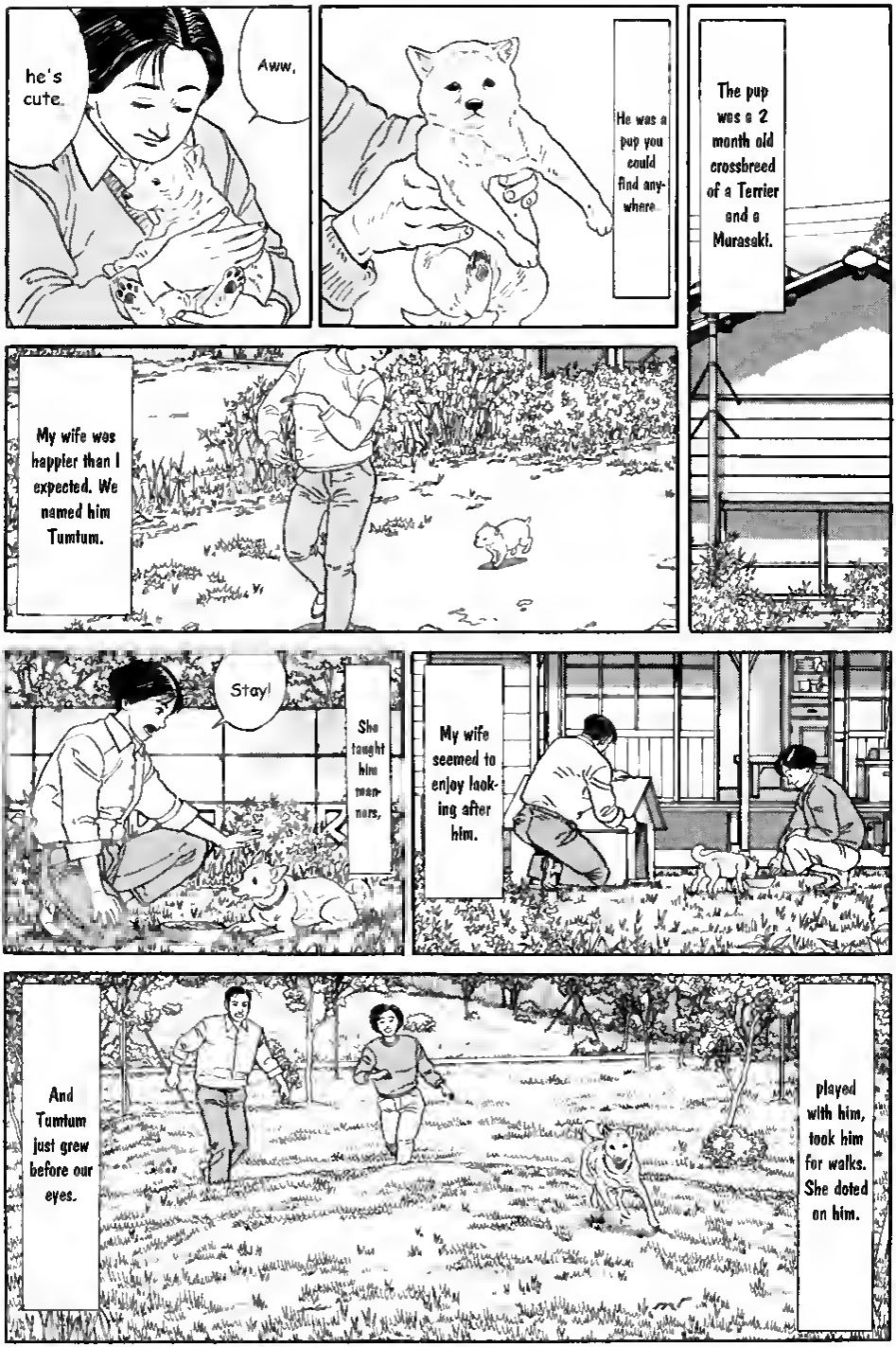

Well, I kind of want a boxer, or a Doberman,
What kind of dog?

I'll take it out for walks.
O.K.
Dear, take good care of it, O.K.?


I'll bring it home soon enough.
That's why I asked a friend.

I don't like the idea of buying a living thing.

I don't like that
and they are quite expensive
but we'd have to buy those,

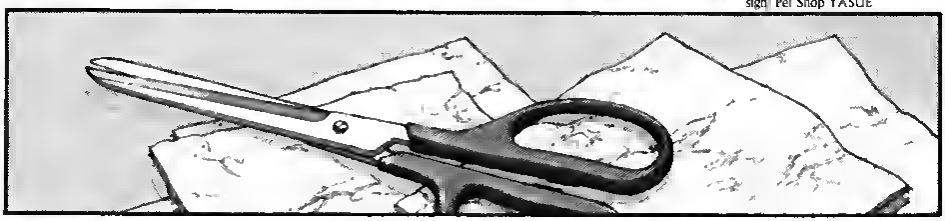

he's cute.
Aww,
He was a pup you could find anywhere.
The pup was a 2 month old crossbreed of a Terrier and a Murasaki.
My wife was happier than I expected. We named him Tumtum.
Stay!
She taught him manners,
My wife seemed to enjoy looking after him.
And Tumtum just grew before our eyes.
played with him, took him for walks. She doted on him.

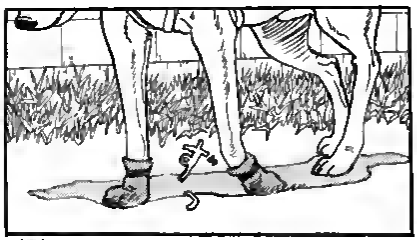
And Tum was always in the middle of me and my wife.

Seemed like he was starting to lose movement in his front leg, and he was dragging it.
Tom still walked as slowly as ever.
sfx drag
sfx drag
April 3rd, rain.
It's bleeding!
You know, there are ones for dogs to wear indoors
Maybe we can make him wear shoes
Right
What should we do?
We have to think of something
His claw's broken
He can't lift his leg like before.

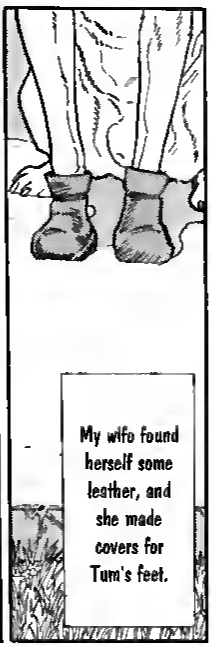
There's not much demand for them these days,
so they don't make them anymore.
I see
The ones for indoors
Those are the only ones we have.
These are too small
ペットショップ
ヤスエ

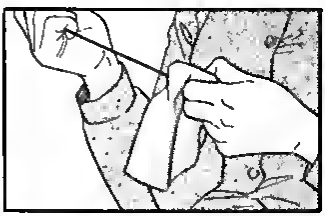
sign: Pet Shop YASUE





sfx: drag





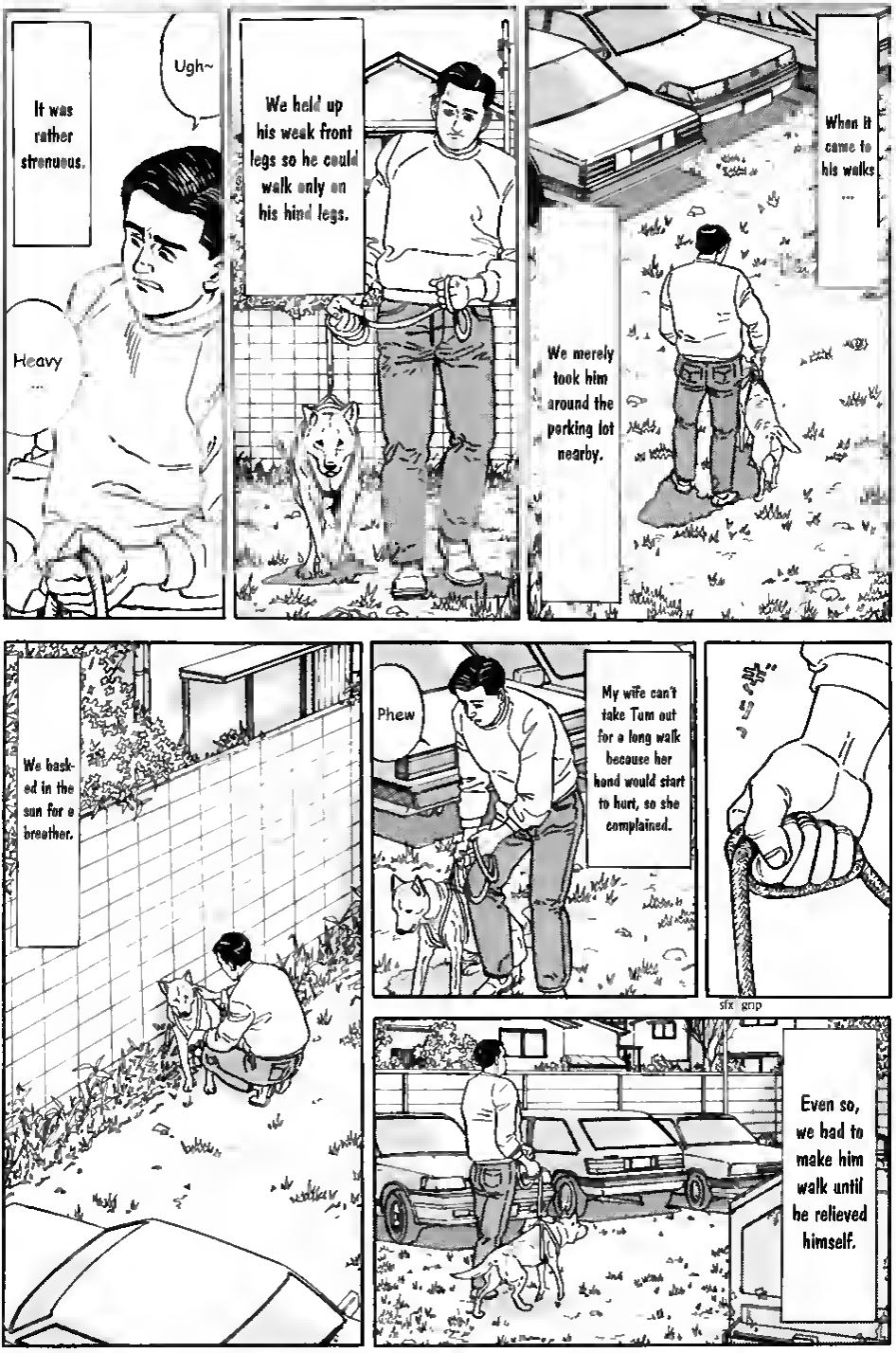
It looks funny
What's that?
Ah ha ha
April 20th, clear but sometimes cloudy
sfx drag drag
He knew that once he's down on his back, he had lost the battle.
The dog continued to walk.
sfx drag
And we believed that it was our duty to give him any help possible to keep his zeal burning.
He tried to continue walking as long as he could.
That's why, he kept on fighting.

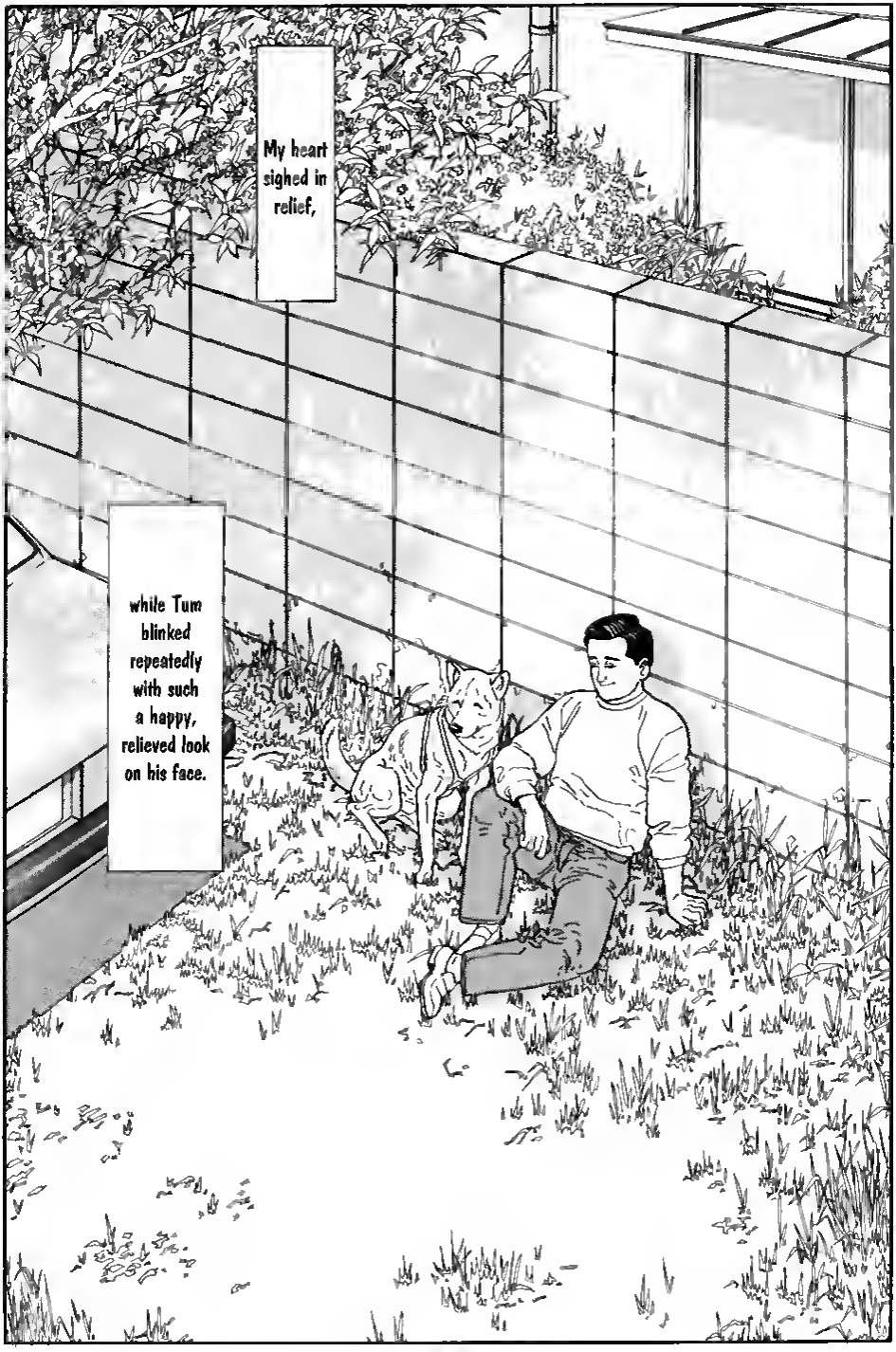
His appetite was also decreasing.
He no longer ate heartily as he used to, and he was getting clumsier and clumsier with his bites.
We even had to support him during meal time.
Perhaps, this is also how a human being grows old.
This is how an animal grows old.
Shall we go?
Hey.
Tum!
From then on, we started letting him in the house after the evening walks.
April 15th, cloudy and sometimes raining.
Eh?
Something smells
Kuu uuh
sfx sniff sniff

For tha first time in Tum's life, he had leaked secretion he hated so on his own bed.
Uwahh
It's all wet
Ack!
He peed!
Tum had an accident.
Hey.
so you don't hove to hold yourself, O.K.?
We aren't angry.
Kuu kuu
It's okay it's okay
It's not your fault.
Kuu uun
Nnn
What's wrong with him?
Umm
What could be the matter?
Since Tum started becoming bedridden, my wife changed her job as a technical assistant at the nearby Ceramic Arts Class to three times weekly part time.

sfx: kuon kuo ~ n kuon

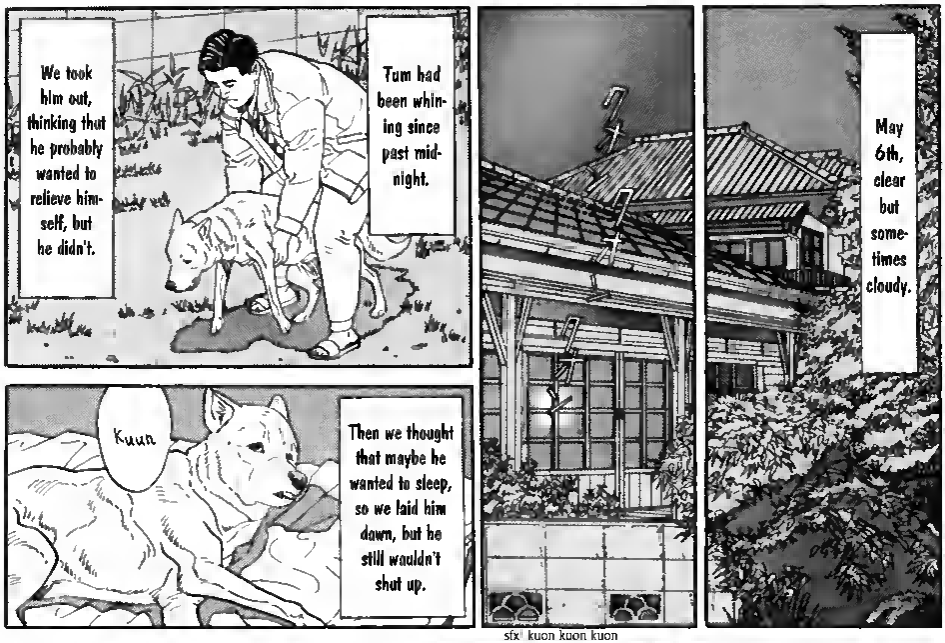
sfx click
It must be that he felt uncomfortable sitting on his own poo and started moving around.
Hey, give me a hand.
Ugh, stinks.
The lower half of Tum's body was mangled in his feces.
sfx scrub scrub
So stinky
GuKyu ~n
Kyu uun
Wow
Sheesh
Even when we sat him up, he couldn't hold himself.
Finally, he lost movement in his front legs.
April 27th, clear sky.
He would collapse
sfx gura -> sway


It was rather strenuous.
Ugh~
Heavy ...
We held up his weak front legs so he could walk only on his hind legs.
When it came to his walks ...
We merely took him around the parking lot nearby.
We basked in the sun for a breather.
Phew
My wife can't take Tum out for a long walk because her hand would start to hurt, so she complained.
sfx: grip
Even so, we had to make him walk until he relieved himself.

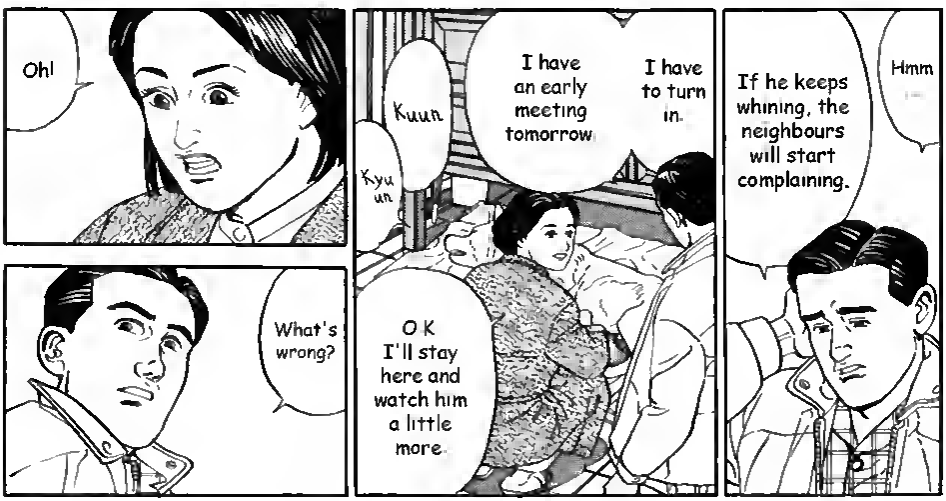

My heart sighed in relief,
while Tum blinked repeatedly with such a happy, relieved look on his face.

Is Tum happy with this?
Tum was always bedridden.
I thought to myself, "Is it fine like this?"
sfx: woof woof woof
Stop that!
He was so loud, I had to spank him a few times.
sfx: spank
When Tum was younger, he always barked at dogs that passed in front of our house. He had such a violent temper.
sfx: woof woof
...
The muscles were wasted from lack of use, and the leg was thin.
I gave his weak front leg a massage.
Now, Tum doesn't bark anymore.

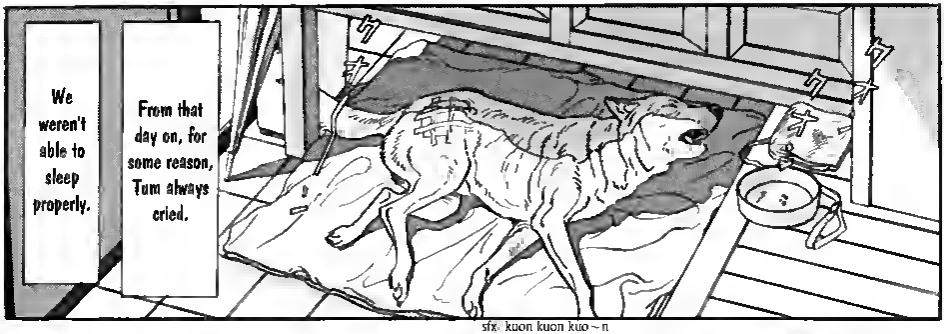
he's trying.
Yeah,
How is he doing?
Tamu-chan...
Oh, good evening
Good evening
Babu babu
He's turning one soon
How old,
is your son?
...
Does he want to touch Tum?
Babu babu.
Pat pat.
Here, you can touch him.

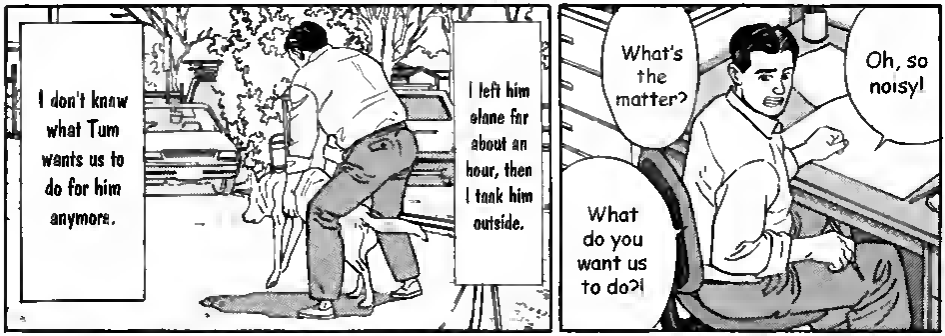

We took him out, thinking that he probably wanted to relieve himself, but he didn't.
Tum had been whining since past midnight.
May 6th, clear but sometimes cloudy.
Kuun
Then we thought that maybe he wanted to sleep, so we laid him down, but he still wouldn't shut up.

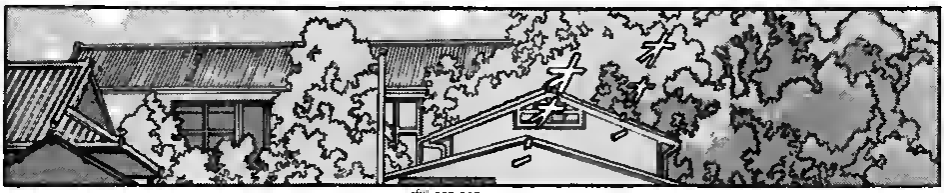
sfx: kuon kuon kuon


Oh!
Kuun
Kyu un
I have an early meeting tomorrow
I have to turn in.
Hmm
If he keeps whining, the neighbours will start complaining.
What's wrong?
O K I'll stay here and watch him a little more.

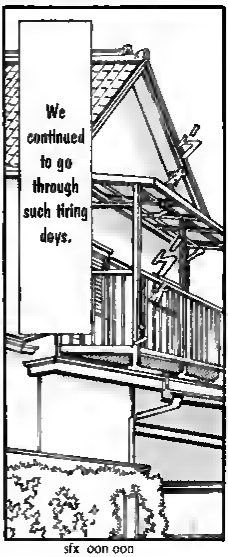
Could this be a bedsore?
What?!
There's a hole here.
What is this?
Look at this.
I never thought that an animal could get a bed sore... not in such a short period of time.
Kuun
We're sorry.
Sorry, Tum
Oh..
The next day.
We decided to put him up on the corridor instead.
He calmed down a bit.
We went to the vet to get Tum treated. We also received some painkiller and sleep medication for him.


We weren't able to sleep properly.
From that day on, for some reason, Tum always cried.
sfx: kuon kuon kuo~n


I don't know what Tum wants us to do for him anymore.
I left him alone for about an hour, then I took him outside.
What's the matter?
Oh, so noisy!
What do you want us to do?!


sfx: oon oon

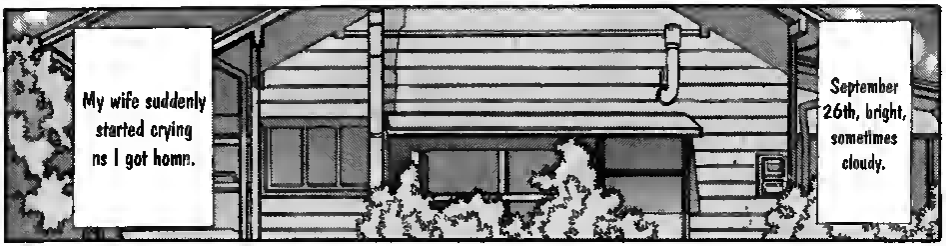
It's your turn tonight!
Ehh?
Hey, you go see what he wants.
I have to get up early tomorrow
sfx: oon oon

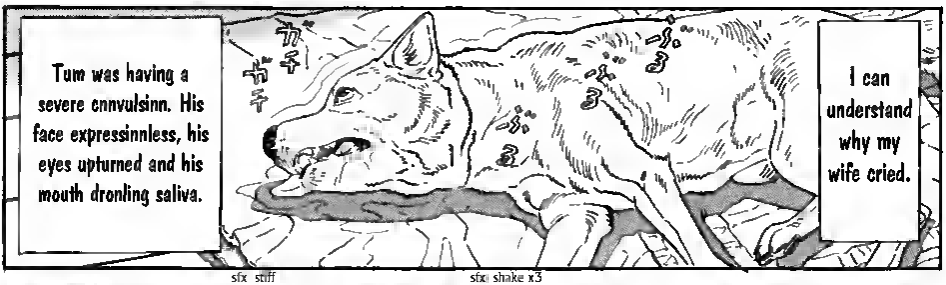

We continued to go through such tiring days.
sfx: oon oon

Seasons changed, and Summer came.
Kuu
Kuu
But Tum's condition didn't seem to improve.
Sometimes I wondered how long we were going to live like this... and the thought of it made me feel gloomy.
Both my wife and I were getting worn out from taking care of Tum.
Daily conversation with my wife also decreased.

August 31st, cloudy with showers.
And then, the seasons started to change to Autumn. The lingering summer heat was still harsh, with its scorching sunlight.
...
How long do you intend to keep living?
You...
Obaachon.
Oh, good afternoon.
Really
You're stubborn, aren't you?
Obaachan, please don't say such things.
I wish I will die soon
You understand, don't you?
We want you to live longer
You have to leave this world soon so you can save your owners the trouble.
Kuu~

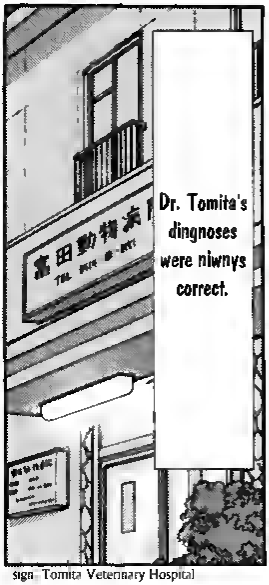
This dog, too...
He feels the same way I do
I don't want to become a burden...
There's nothing for me to look forward to
Ku~n
Things don't really turn out the way I wish them to...
...
It doesn't seem that I'm anywhere near dying...
But, I'm still alive...
According to my wife, her heart broke as she listened to the old woman's stories.
A month later, one final severe attack took Tum away.
sfx rain




Tum was having a severe convulsion. His face expressionless, his eyes upturned and his mouth drooling saliva.
I can understand why my wife cried.

sfx: stiff

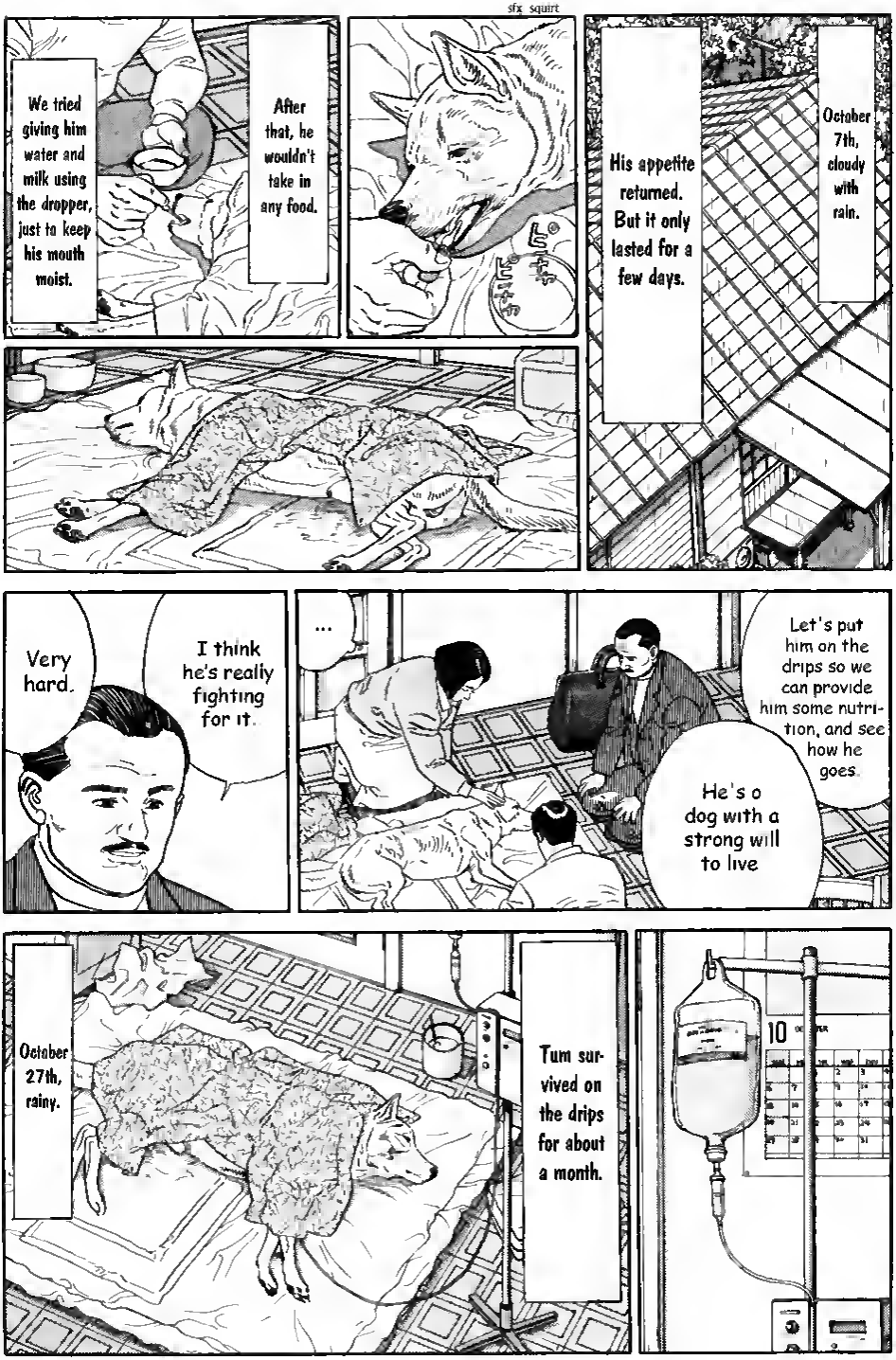
sfx: shake x3



sign: Tomita Veterinary Hospital

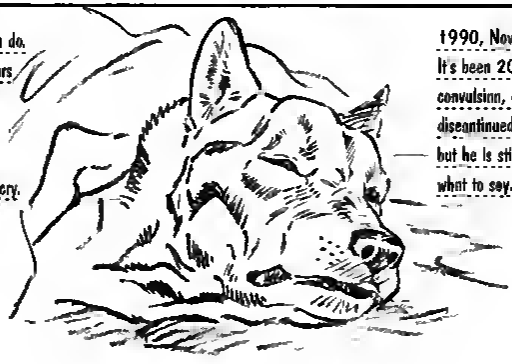
A few hours later, Tum stopped convulsing.
It was late at night, but he gladly treated Tum.
He was the only veterinarian we could rely on.
We didn't want Tum to suffer.
...
Anyway, please keep him warm
Honestly speaking, he is in a critical condition
Uuu
We wanted to let him die without having to suffer.
As we were dozing off, morning came.
How should we be feeling... What should we be thinking...
It was difficult for us to keep watching Tum, unable to help him. We sank into silence.

Tum was still alive. He had been fighting.
Kuu
Kuu
September 27th, sunny.
We felt like our chests had been clamped.
Tum!
Why, Tum, do you have to fight this much?!
Why do you still want to live despite your condition?


We tried giving him water and milk using the dropper, just to keep his mouth moist.
After that, he wouldn't take in any food.
sfx squirt
His appetite returned. But it only lasted for a few days.
October 7th, cloudy with rain.
Very hard.
I think he's really fighting for it.
...
He's a dog with a strong will to live
Let's put him on the drips so we can provide him some nutrition, and see how he goes.
October 27th, rainy.
Tum survived on the drips for about a month.

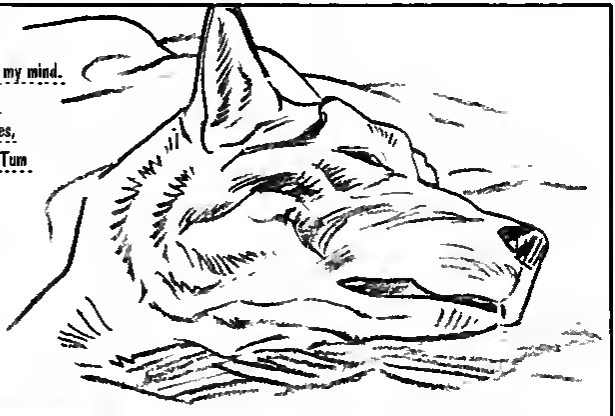
When patted on his head, he blinked his eyes to respond.
Tum!
and he didn't make much sound anymore.
His leaking urine only smelled of the drips,
We had to take him off the drips.
We should let him sleep quietly.
I don't think he is suffering from any pain.
His blood vessels became weaker,
However, the time finally came for the drips to go.
the drips leaked into the surrounding tissue, and his leg swelled up.

We don't know what else we can do. We keep staring at him, and tears start to well up in our eyes. We couldn't bring ourselves to say anything, afraid that our voices would betray us and turn into a cry.



1990, Nov. 1st.
It's been 20 days since Tum had the convulsion, and 5 days since the drip was discontinued. Tum has gotten very thin, but he is still alive. I'm clueless as of what to say. I feel sorry for Tum.

1990, Nov. 2nd.
"I hope he is not suffering." That is all that's in my mind. I stroke him gently. He blinks his eyes in return. He has lost so much weight, I could feel his bones, it made me sad. It breaks my heart more to see Tum fighting to live in his pitiful state.

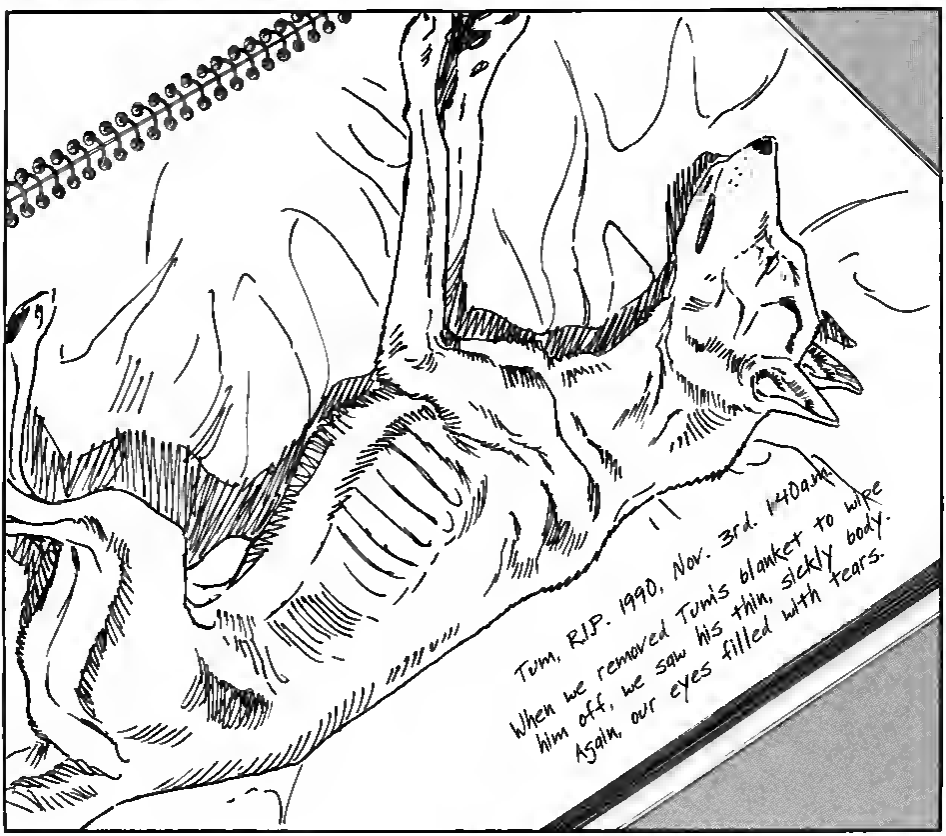


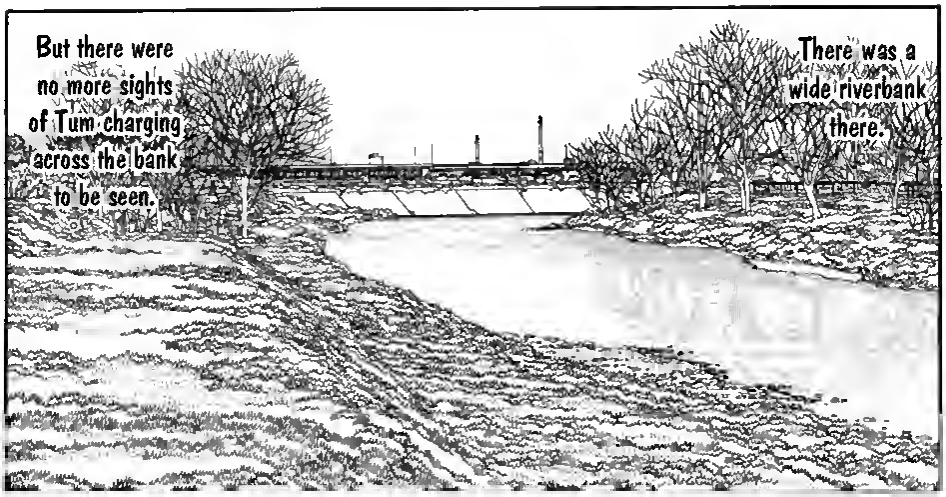
I never thought there would come a day when I would have to see Tom dying with these heavy feelings in my chest.

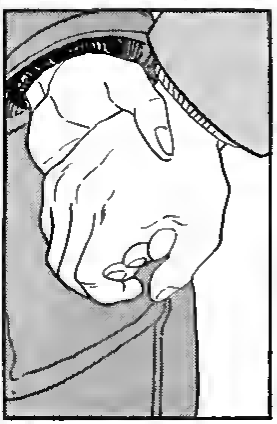
Tum!
Tum!
Ah!
sfx shake x2
Hey!
Tum's!
TUM!!
1990, Nov. 3rd,
1:40 a.m.
Tum passed away.
He lived for
14 years and
10 months.
Wah
hhh~

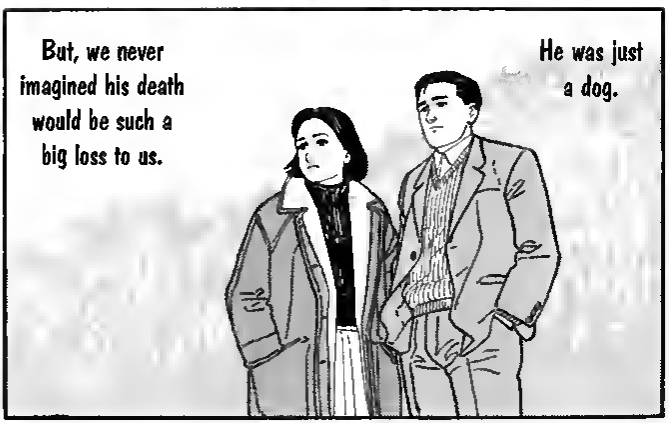
Sadness hit us in our hearts, echoing the words we failed to voice on the death of our dog.

Death is the same, be it a human's or a dog's.
To live, to die...


Tom, R.I.P. 1990, Nov. 3rd. 14 Days.
When we removed Tom's blanket to wipe him off, we saw his thin, sickly body. Again, our eyes filled with tears.


But there were no more sights of Tum charging across the bank to be seen.
There was a wide riverbank there.




But, we never imagined his death would be such a big loss to us.
He was just a dog.

Was something that was greater, and far more important.
What Tum left us with his death...

Inu wo Kau Chapter 1
by TANIGUCHI Jiro

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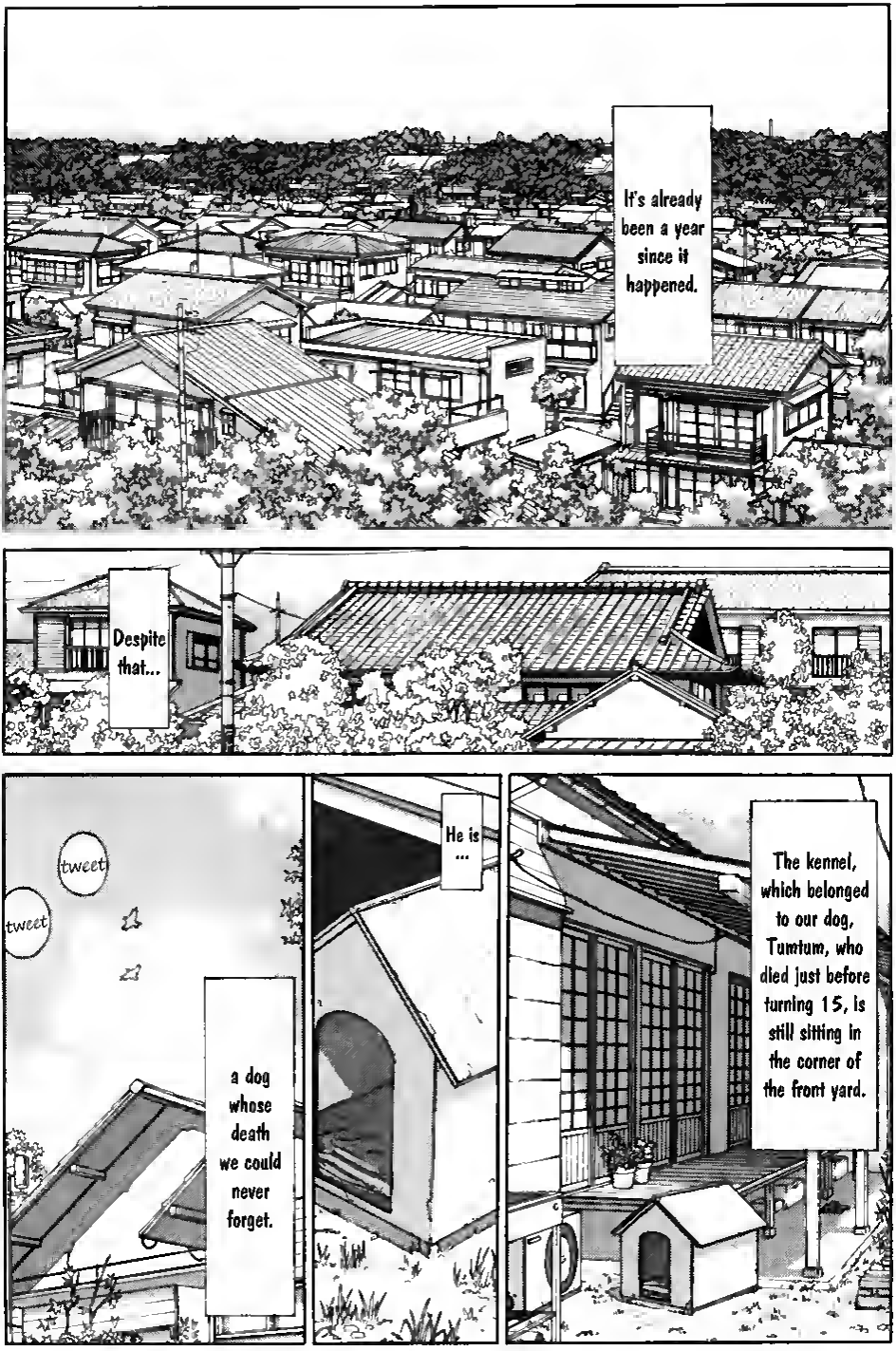
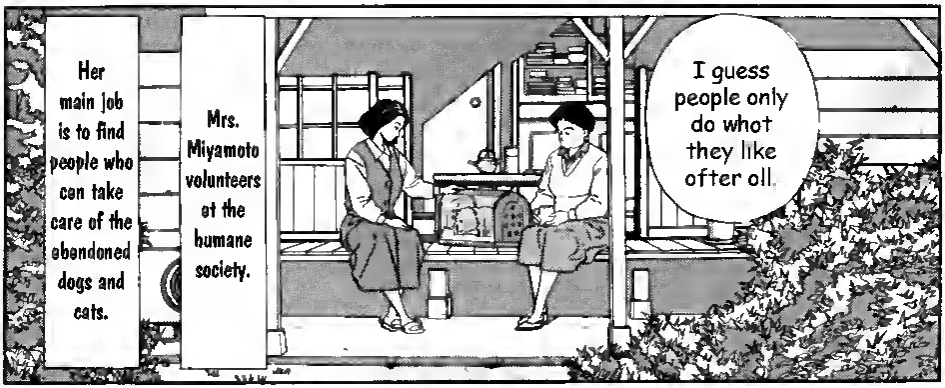
AND THEN...

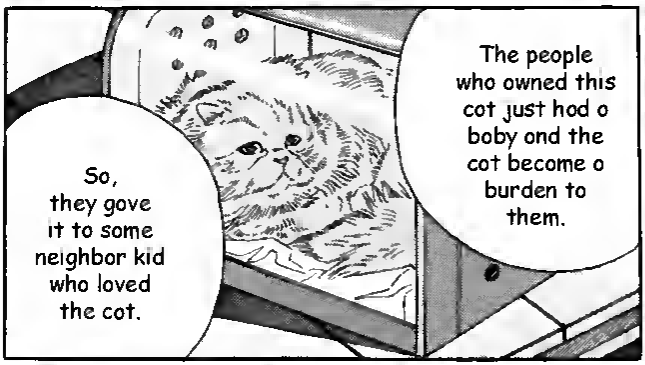
CARING FOR A CAT


It's already been a year since it happened.
Despite that...
tweet
tweet
a dog whose death we could never forget.
He is ...
The kennel, which belonged to our dog, Tumtum, who died just before turning 15, is still sitting in the corner of the front yard.

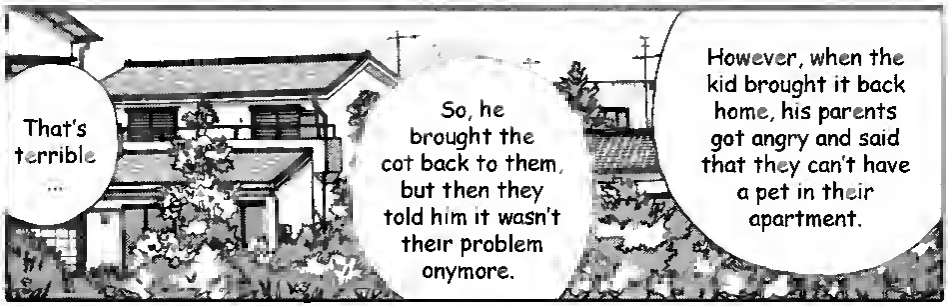
She osked me to toke in o cot...
No woy!
We decided not to since it's too hord to watch our pets die.
clip
Mrs. Miyomoto next door asked me.
Eh?!
...
You couldn't get over his deoth
You're the one who sold, "Let's not hove any more pets."
I see how it is.
Fine, I'll refuse her offer.
hm
hmh
If you wont one,
I won't orgue with you.

I'm begging you.
I've asked everyone, but no one can take her in.
The next day—
Huh, you've brought it here?
Please!
Can you please ask your husband one more time?
If it were a kitten, I could find it a home easily, but it's almost a year old, so ..
But ...
On top of that, someone said that this is a pedigreed cat.
Why would they abandon a cat like that?
You don't need to take them out for walks,
and you can leave them alone as long as you feed them.
I've never had a cat and ...
That's fine.
They're easier to care for than dogs.


Her main job is to find people who can take care of the abandoned dogs and cats.
Mrs. Miyamoto volunteers at the humane society.
I guess people only do what they like after all.


So, they gave it to some neighbor kid who loved the cat.
The people who owned this cat just had a baby and the cat became a burden to them.

It's because of the new baby.


That's terrible ...
So, he brought the cat back to them, but then they told him it wasn't their problem anymore.
However, when the kid brought it back home, his parents got angry and said that they can't have a pet in their apartment.

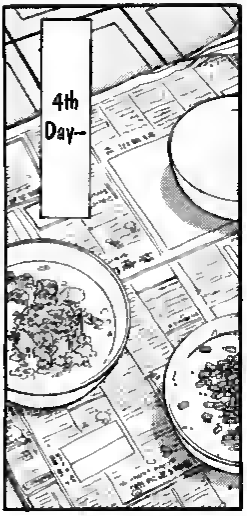
I see ...
That's how it lost its home,
and ended up at the humane society.

Look!
Wake up.
Hey, honey.
Uhm~n.
I brought it in.
What's that?
Whoa!
sfx: thud
But it has such an ugly, flat face.
Hmm
She said it's a purebred Persian.
That's an ugly cat.

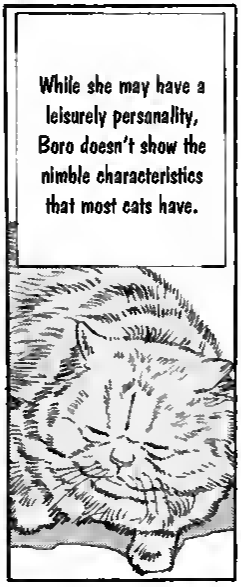
This cat has been passed aff to so many peaple
It's a matured cat, sa it hasn't grown attached to anyane, she said.
What should I do?
After being told something like that,
can yau really return it to them?
...
If she can't find anyone to take care of it,
the humane society will put it down.
Yup!
we have na chaice but to care far it.
ぱりぱり
But since yau've brought it here,
...
That's how we decided to take this cat.

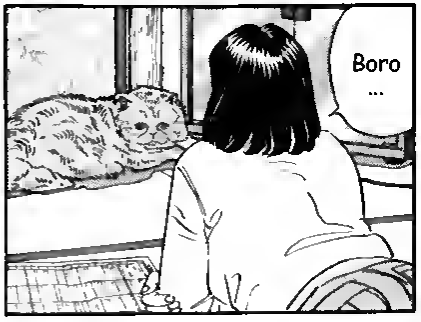
1st Day--
She's tensed up. Whenever we walk around, she hides herself in the shade.
When we pick her up to hug her,
Although she has reason to be afraid, she's so timid. it makes me feel sorry for her.
she twists her body to escape.
This is your home now.
OK?
Good girl.
I won't obondon you.
I wonder how her life has been.

When we aren't moving around, she gets close to us.
But... she's stiii cautious.
Then on the 3rd day.
2nd Day–
At first, I thought it was so ugly, but now that I've grown used to it, I think it's quite lovely.
But, what a face she has.
Sometimes she looks like a raccoon.
This cat is kind of funny.
She's so loveablo. It's heartwarming for us.
At athers, she behaves like an otter.

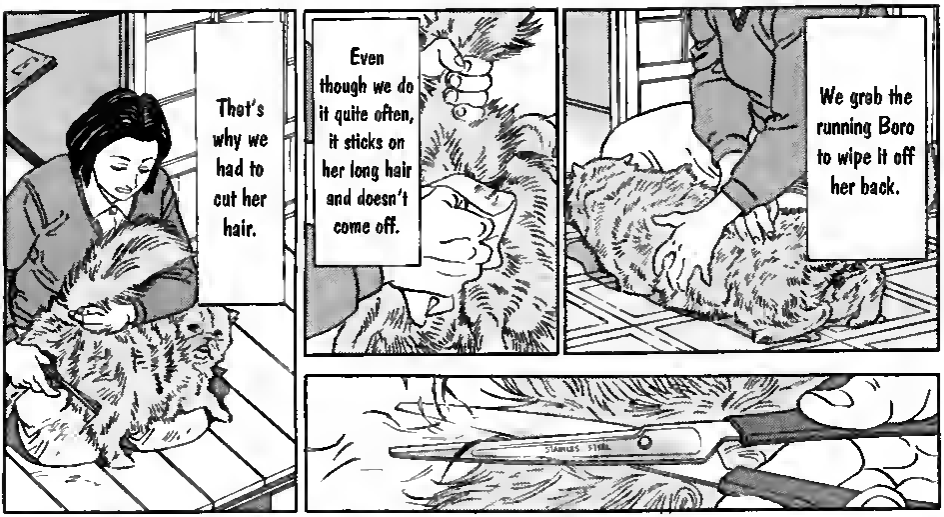


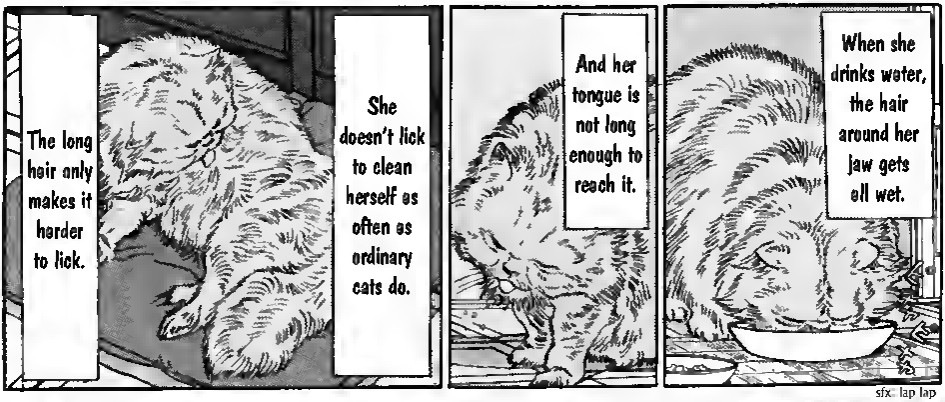
*Boro in Japanese can mean a rag or tattered clothing.





Mew
Mew
Uh~n
She mews at our bedside, pressing us to feed her.
We're woken up by Boro these days.
Mew
Mew
A few days have passed since then.
Meww
Hey, can you?
Come here, Boro.
Let me sleep a bit longer.
She even walks around with her droppings sticking to her back sometimes.
It's two or three times a day.
I guess it's because she's getting used to us.
But, she sure does eat a lot.
Geez.
That's probably why she's also going to the bathroom more.


That's why we had to cut her hair.
Even though we do it quite often, it sticks on her long hair and doesn't come off.
We grab the running Boro to wipe it off her back.
STAINLESS STEEL


The long hair only makes it harder to lick.
She doesn't lick to clean herself as often as ordinary cats do.
And her tongue is not long enough to reach it.
When she drinks water, the hair around her jaw gets all wet.
sfx: lap lap

She may give up easily or just be slow, but she never gets angry and bites or scratches.
She's such an easy cat to have.
She resists at first, but soon she gives up and stays quiet.
We shampoo her.

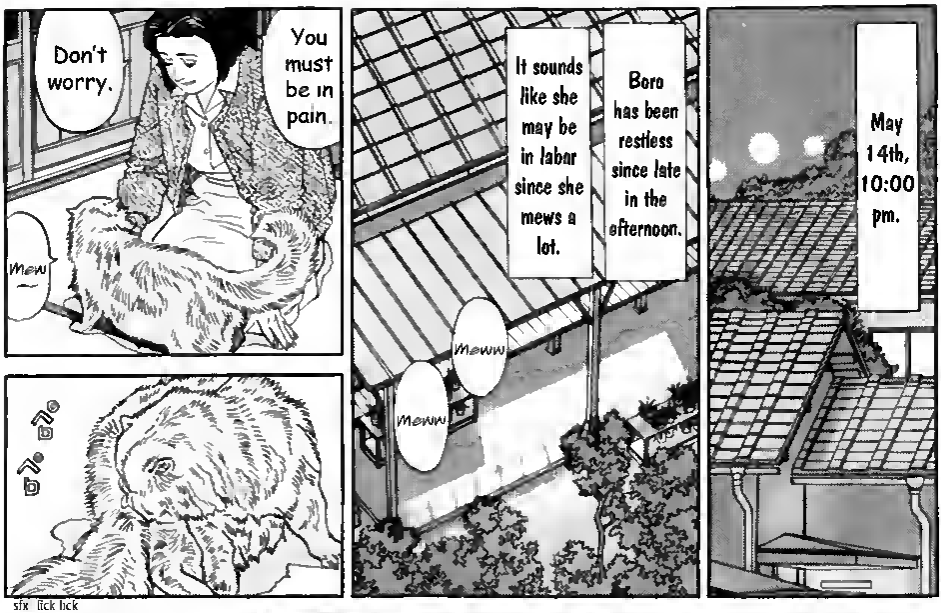
My wife's friends from the ceramic school, where she instructs as a techaical assistant, came to see Boro.
Whoa!
Is this it?
She looks funny!
The next day.
Two weeks pass by in the blink of an eye.
It's the first time I've ever seen a Persian cat.
It doesn't look like a cat. Ahahaha!
But, when I loak at her carefully, she's kind of cute.
She's gat big eyes. Ahaha, true, she's cute.
Even the back of her paw has hair.
Waw, look.
She's a strange cat
she slips on the wooden flaars
That's why.

Look,
her nipples are so big too.
Still, she's got such a big tummy.
Yeah, she eats a lot.
She's a bit fat.
I've heard that Persian cats are supposed to stay inside the house all the time.
Come on.
Maybe she's pregnant.
My cat's a female too, but they're not like these.
My wife brought her to Dr. Tomita just in case.
The next day.
Around the middle of next month... I'd say she has another month to go.
Are you sure about that?
Ehh—?!
She's pregnant.

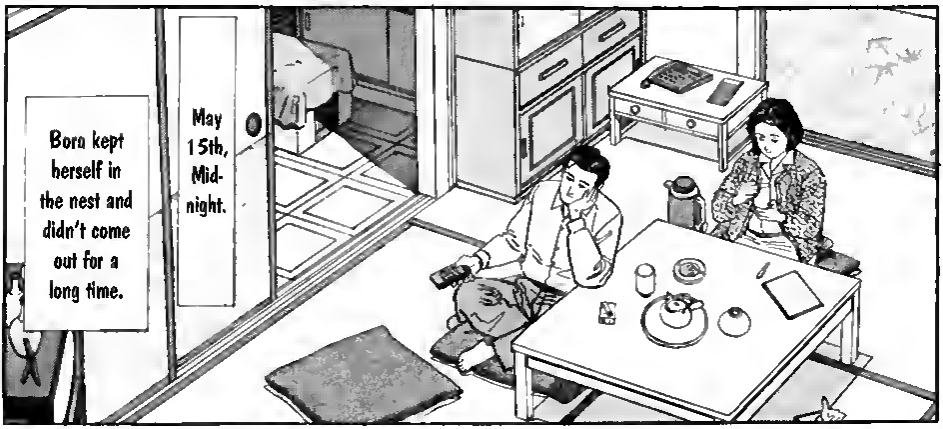
your previous owner was terrible.
No matter how I think of it,
We were given a pregnant cat.
...
For throwing a pregnant cat away, that is.
But... it is a bit enjoyable, isn't it?
When my wife told Mrs. Miyamoto about it, she was delighted and said, "Kittens, I can easily find a home for."
Let me know when the babies are born.
How many babies do cats usually bear?
I wonder what the babies will look like.
Hmmn... yeah, I guess...

Boro's belly has gotten noticeably larger.
And then another few weeks passed.
Though, she doesn't like to stay still on our laps and she refuses to be held.
At this point, Boro has finally grown attached to us.
when we brush her long hair.
ブロロロ
She fawns and purrs...
sfx purr purr
Ahi
sfx thump
The colour around her nipples has turned pink.
When we stroke her belly, she looks comfortable.

Aha!
You're right, it's moving.
Eh!!
Let me feel.
It moved!
We also cut the top off and covered it with a piece of cloth to let us easily peer inside.
We made an entrance gate on the side.
We used a cardboard box.
We made a nest for Boro to deliver the babies in.


Don't worry.
You must be in pain.
Mew
Mewww
Mewww
It sounds like she may be in labor since she mews a lot.
Bora has been restless since late in the afternoon.
May 14th, 10:00 pm.
ぴちゃぴちゃ

sfx: lick lick



What should we do?
It's still got placenta attached to it.
Just one still ...
Hey, a baby was born already!
Eh!?
Two more kittens were born in the next 30 minutes.
However, Boro doesn't cut any of those or eat the placentas. Her milk hasn't flown out either.
All three of them were squirming with the navel strings.
Although she licks to break the amnion,
she doesn't cut the navel strings.

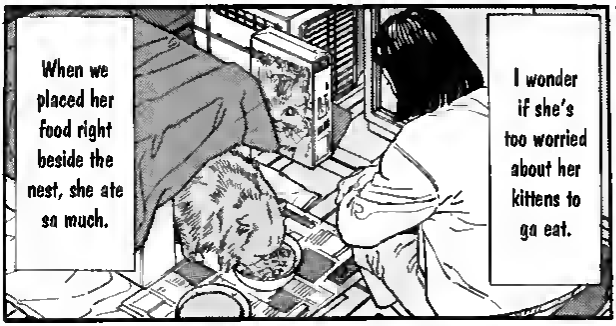
This is to prevent bleeding.
First, tie about 2cm away from the kitten's bellybutton with cotton thread.
Then cut it with a pair of scissors.
First of all we learned how to cut the navel strings.
12:45 am— We didn't know what to do so we called Dr. Tomita and asked him to guide us through the procedure.
Hey.
Come on, Boro.
Behave like a mother!
Boro is absent as usual and doesn't lick her babies much.
It doesn't seem like any milk is flowing.
The kittens are groping around Boro's belly but don't get interested in her nipple.
1:00am. It has been around one hour since the kittens were born.

He dried the kittens with a towel one by one since Boro didn't lick them enough.
The vet came in.
1:20 am.
We were worried and called Dr. Tomita again.
I'm sure it's just that they're not hungry yet.
We tried to make the kittens suck on it but they didn't.
Some milk came out when he squeezed her nipple.
If they don't drink her milk within the next two hours,
They had a lot of amniotic fluid inside the belly.
OK!
give them this powdered milk and see.
If they were hungry, they would mew much more noisily.

Boro ate it.
He says that if she eats the egg yolk it means she bore all the babies.
Hmm, do you have any raw eggs?
Can you feed her an egg yolk, please?
Yes!
sfx lap lap
Three kittens— delivered safely.
2:10 am.
Ah, they're feeding!
Honey, they're feeding!
suck
suck
It was around 30 minutes after Dr. Tomita left.

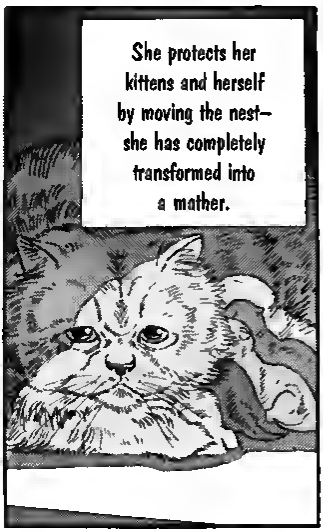
All three kittens were sucking their mother's nipples noisily.
Boro was purring and squinting her eyes. Boro, with her kittens at her belly, showed her motherly side for the first time.

She never strays too far from the kittens.
We were worried about how good of a parent she'd be, but she already started to behave like a mother.


When we placed her food right beside the nest, she ate so much.
I wonder if she's too worried about her kittens to go eat.

Boro hasn't eaten anything.

One day–


She protects her kittens and herself by moving the nest– she has completely transformed into a mother.

I quickly searched for the cats and found them under the phone desk.

When I got home, I found the nest empty.

Their curiosity has no end. They move around awkwardly.
The kittens grow in a flash.
This has completely changed our image of Boro.
Mother Boro is very busy with looking after the kittens.
Boro, you're doing well.
We know it takes a lot of energy to give birth and to raise her kittens.
It looks like Boro suddenly got older after giving birth to the kittens.

They must rely on us humans to survive.
It may be a small, worthless thing, but...
Also, they show us a purity that we've forgotten.
That's why they allow our selfishness.
Ah!!
sfx shutter!
It softens our hearts.
It's not gonna work.

Inu wo Kau Chapter 2
by TANIGUCHI Jiro

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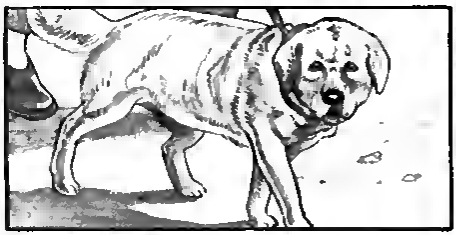
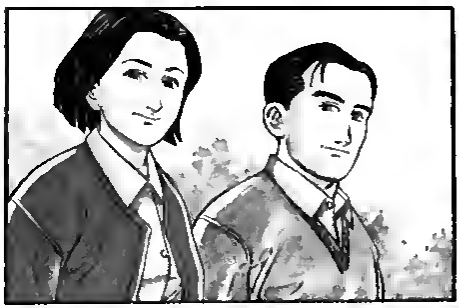
VIEW
OF THE
BACKYARD

One month has passed since our cat, Boro, had kittens.

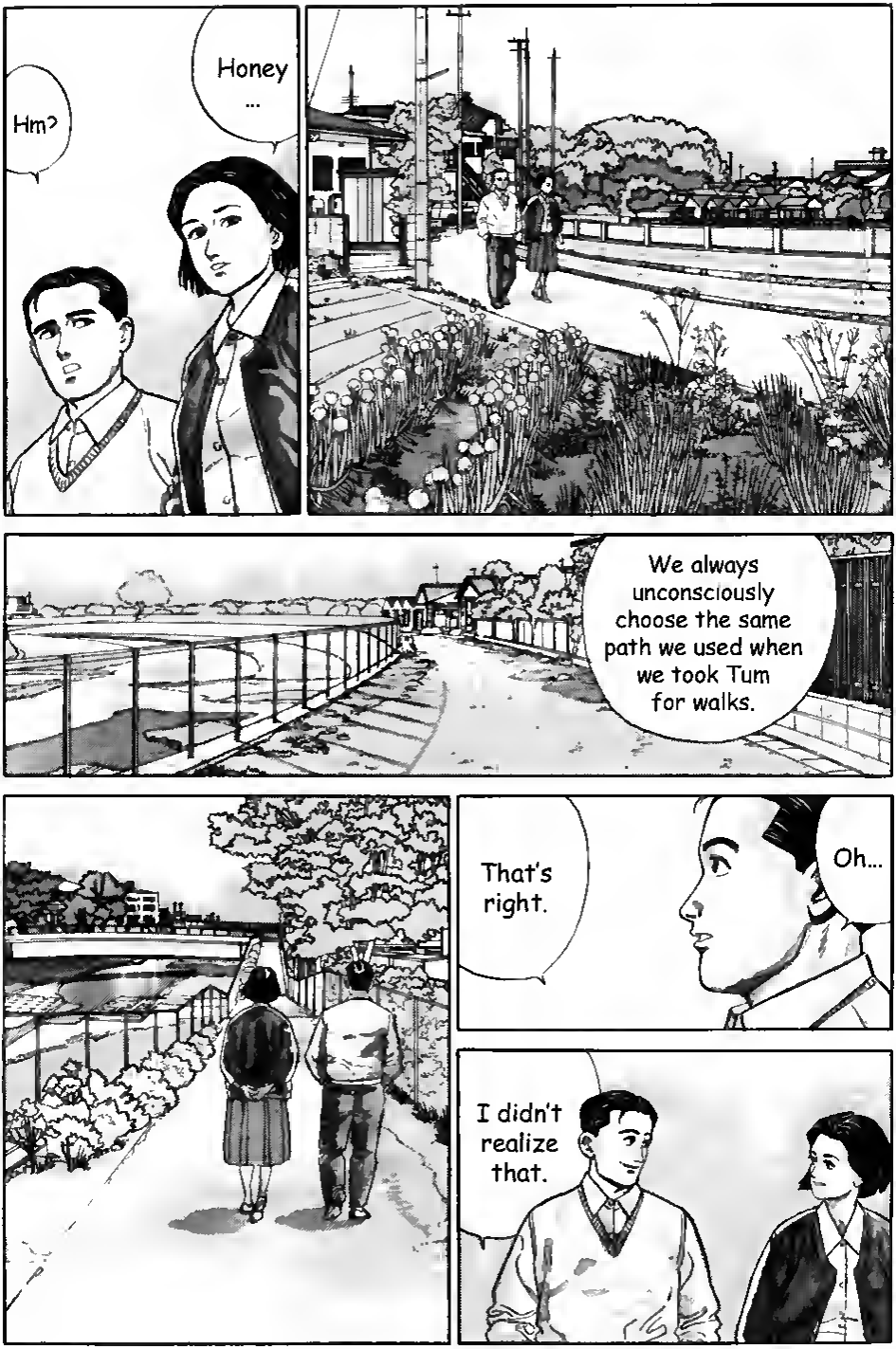
Spring has ended and summer has begun.

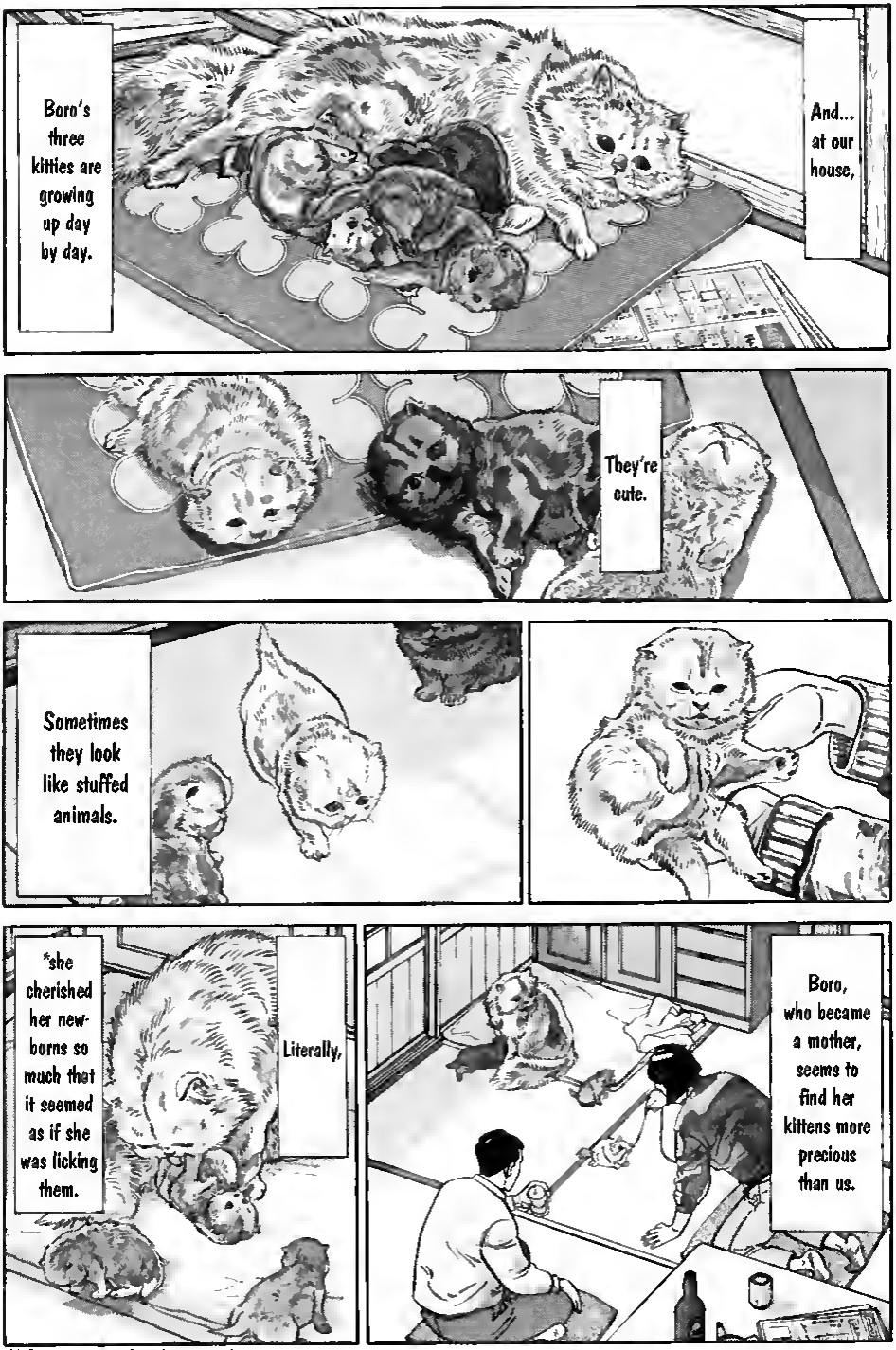




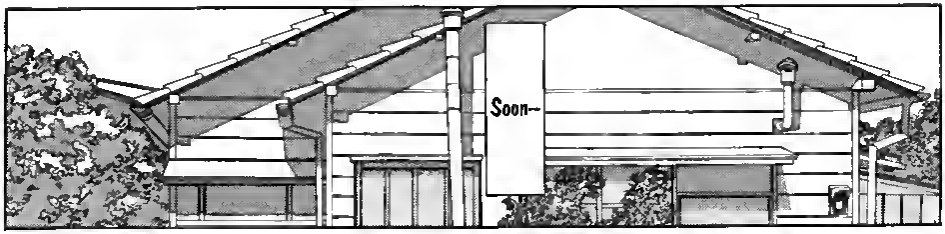
Ah...
Maru-chan.
I see,
Ku~~n
you're basking in the sun.
Maru!
Good boy.
Right.
You sound well.
Ku~
You're living a long life too.
...

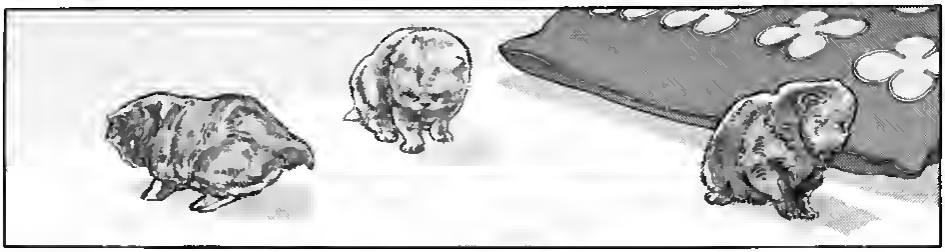
His legs and loins are still fine, although he can't see things properly.
Our neighbor Mrs. Suzuki's dog, Maru, is old. He's already 15.
Maru is taking a nap and looking comfortable.
when the weather's nice, they let him stay under the sun.
Usually they keep him inside the house, though...
He looks like Tum.
When I see Maru, it reminds me about my beloved dog Tum that passed away a year ago.
Yeah... you're right.
A day like this is nice isn't it...?
How peaceful.

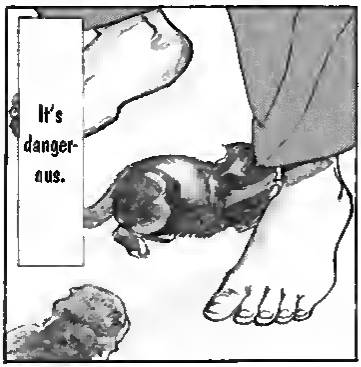

Honey ...
Hm?
We always unconsciously choose the same path we used when we took Tum for walks.
That's right.
Oh...
I didn't realize that.


Boro's three kitties are growing up day by day.
And... at our house,
They're cute.
Sometimes they look like stuffed animals.
*she cherished her newborns so much that it seemed as if she was licking them.
Literally,
Boro, who became a mother, seems to find her kittens more precious than us.

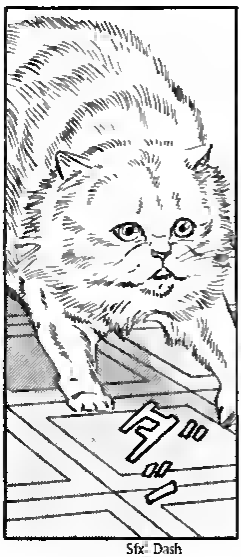
*A Japanese saying about human mothers, but it applies literally in this case to Boro.

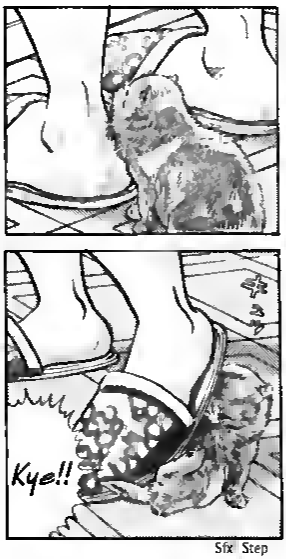

Soon--




It's dangerous.

Oops.
Those little kittens have started to get in our way.


Sfx: Dash


Kye!!
Sfx: Step

Once, my wife didn't notice that the kittens were meandering about her feet...

I'm sorry.
Fuu-!!
Ahi
Fuu—!!
Sha!!
We had thought that Boro would be more easy-going than other cats.
My wife said that it was the first time she had seen Boro getting angry.
But,
even with their mother worrying about them, the kittens carelessly ramp and jump around.
Boro mews to let the kittens know her whereabouts and check the three kittens' safety.
フニャア
フニャア
Sfx Mew- mew

She likes animals and is an warm-hearted, nice person.
By naw, everybody wants them.
Mrs. Miyamoto was the one who forced Boro upon us, but I'm glad she did.
Haw adorable.
Oh, dear.
Why don't you just keep all of them?
Hey.
I just can't give them away.
It seems,
Yeah ...
That won't be a prablem. We'll take them ane by ane while she's away.
Dan't warry, she wan't natice it.
But will Bara be OK.. if her babies disap-pear?
That's impos-sible.
It's alright while they're small, but... We can't keep faur cats.
I see

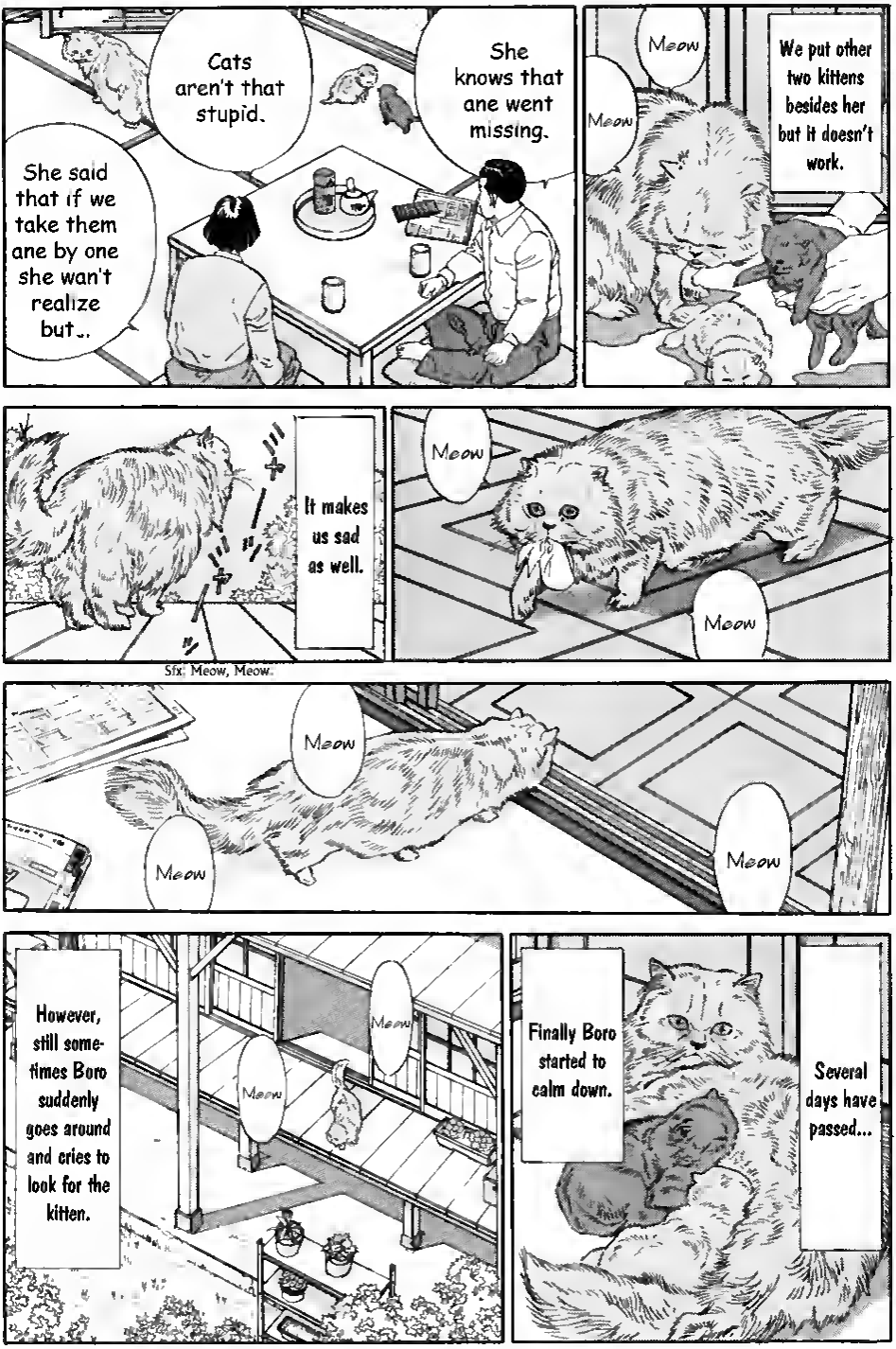
We've given them names for the time being to distinguish between the three of them.
They had developed their own personalities.
Soon ...
Yellowish haired one that was born last is Kiki. She looks cutest of all. (Female)
Gray haired one that was born second is Gome. He's the smallest but most dexterous. (Male)
Blackish haired one that was born first is Kuro. She's kind of slow. (Female)
She disciplines naughty kittens by biting their necks.
Kyee~ !!
Boro fully behaves like a mother.
However, it doesn't do much. The kittens resume their antics shortly after.

That day, Mrs. Miyamoto brought a parent and child who wanted to adopt a kitten.
They're so cute~~.
Whoa!!
That's fine.
All right.
Mo'om, I wont this one, Kiki-chan.
This kitten
Look at this one, so cute
Hey, mom.
All right then. But don't give her to onybody pleose.
Maybe one more week will do.
Yep, please toke care of her.
so please woit for o little bit.
But those kittens still need to hove their mother's milk to grow,
How long?
Until . . . when . . ?

I see ...
Somebody offered to take him ofter seeing those photos we left at Tomita Vet.
Yeah.
The time has come
Goma as well.
Hmm
When I told them that Kiki had been taken, they decided to take Goma.
Well then, this guy is the one left out.
They also,
asked for Kiki, though.
Yep!
Do you think it'd be better to leove one kitten for Boro?
It's going to be quiet around here.
Right... only little Kuro's left.

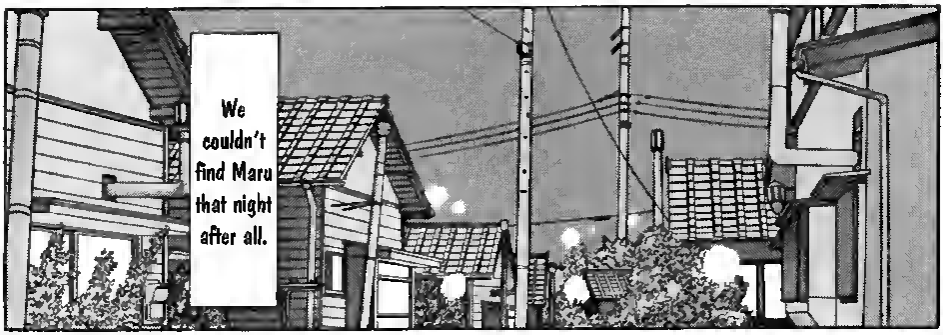
No matter what, we feel very sad.
After all, Kiki is going to be adopted.
Are you taking Kiki taday?
Yeah. That little girl is looking forward to having her.
One week passed ... since then.
... We have na chaice...
since we cannat keep all af them.
We check what Boro is doing.
That's true.
Yeah.
if you want to have a pet then you'd want it while it's still a baby.
Of course,

Sfx Meow, Meow

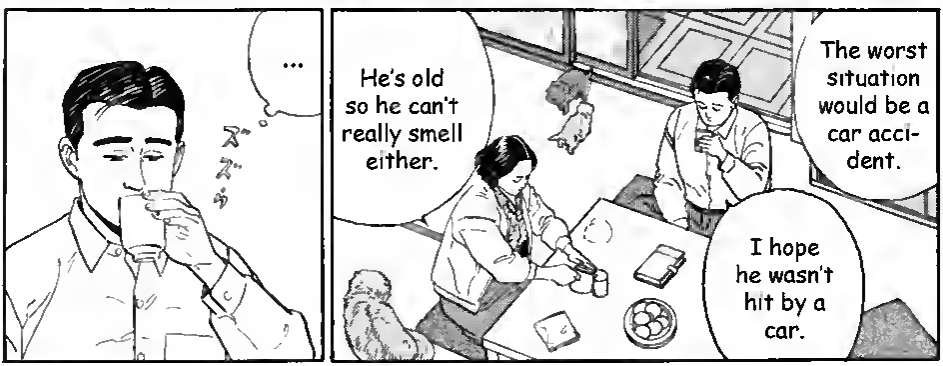

Cats aren't that stupid.
She knows that ane went missing.
She said that if we take them ane by one she wan't realize but..
Meow
Meow
We put other two kittens besides her but it doesn't work.
It makes us sad as well.
Meow
Meow
Sfx: Meow, Meow.
Meow
Meow
Meow
However, still sometimes Boro suddenly goes around and cries to look for the kitten.
Meow
Meow
Finally Boro started to calm down.
Several days have passed...

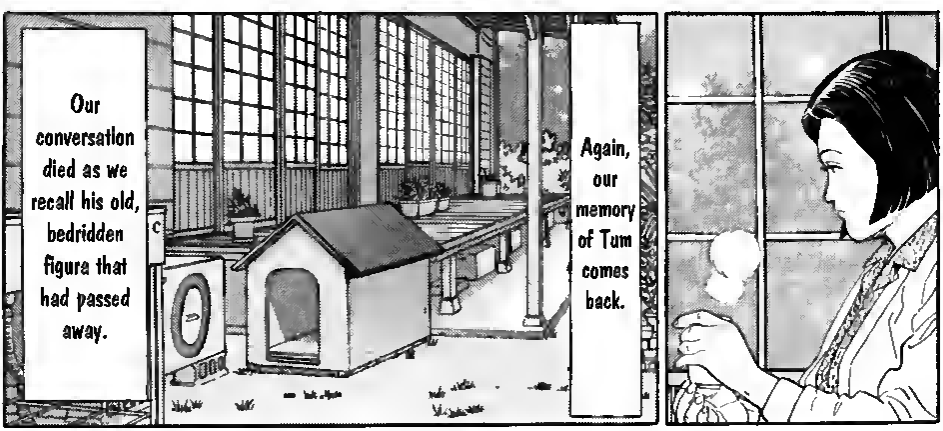
I feel sorry for Boro.
Do you want ta keep Gamo too?
I... don't want to give away any mare af them.
It's time for Goma to leave.
Our hearts get heavy.
Yeah.
I know I shauld just bring Gamo ta them.
Da yau think it's OK? You've already pramised them, right?
Can we?
Yes!
Meow
Ma'am!
It's alright, do it naw!
Con you watch out for Baro?
Sfx: Knock, knock

Na I haven't.
Maru-chan?
Oh, Mrs. Miyamota.
Have yau seen Maru-chan?
Eh—!
Maru-chan has disap-peared.
...
Mrs. Suzuki is laaking far him every-where naw.
That's why I guess he couldn't go far away though.
But... he can't really see things...
Well, shall we cantinue searching for him a bit longer then?
All right, I'll help taa.
I'm so worried because it's getting dark...


We couldn't find Maru that night after all.

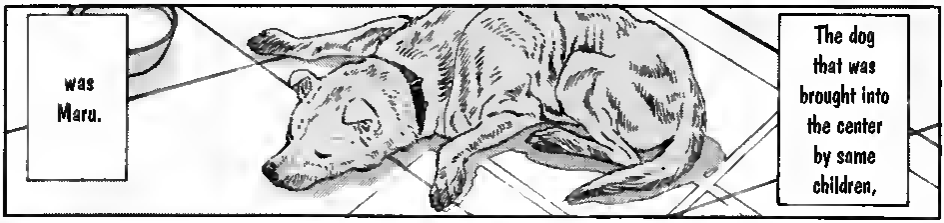
We can't help worrying about him, even though we know worrying alone isn't going to help.
With his blind eyes, how far could he go?


...
He's old so he can't really smell either.
The worst situation would be a car accident.
I hope he wasn't hit by a car.

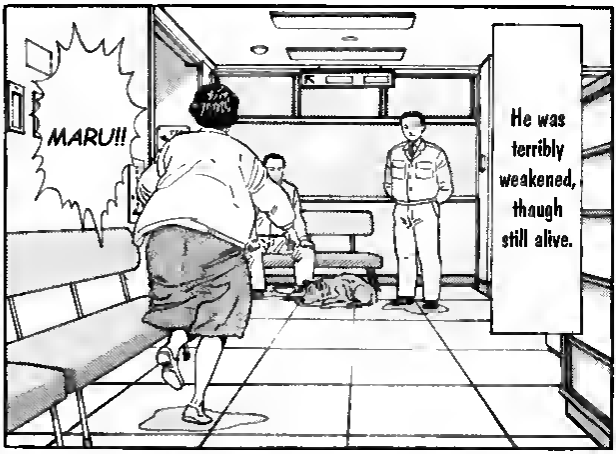

Our conversation died as we recall his old, bedridden figura that had passed away.
Again, our memory of Tum comes back.

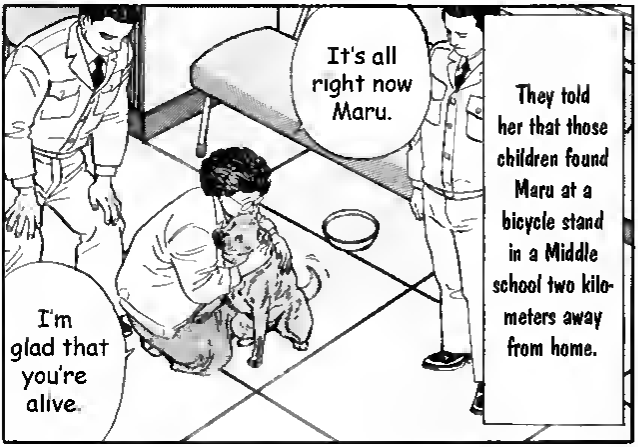
Mrs. Suzuki, who keeps Maru, has contacted the health center to find Maru.
Maru was nowhere to be found the following day.
He must be hungry.
I wonder where he is and how he's doing.
...
Yeah I understand.
It was entirely my fault.
I can't sleep when I start thinking about it.
I hope it doesn't rain...
I want to find him even if he's already dead.
If he's still alive, I'll treasure him all the more.
Mrs. Suzuki kept blaming herself because the old metal clip she used on his collar fell off.

They said that a dog that looks like Maru was found.
The health center contacted Mrs. Suzuki two days after Maru's disappearance.


was Maru.
The dog that was brought into the center by same children,

Kuun
Kuun

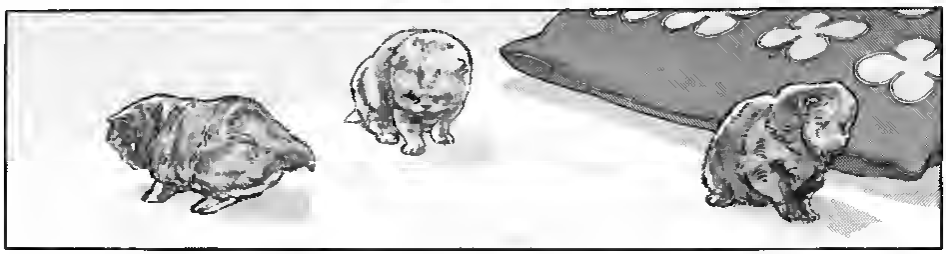

MARU!!
He was terribly weakened, though still alive.


It's all right now Maru.
I'm glad that you're alive.
They told her that those children found Maru at a bicycle stand in a Middle school two kilometers away from home.

Oh~~ Good boy, good boy.
Ku
Ku

Sometimes I see Maru taking a nap in the sun.
You went for an adventure, Maru-chan.
I see.
That's great.
Maru has been doing fine since then.
And then ...
We missed our appointment to give Goma away because of the Maru incident.
What should we do?
Hmm.
Now you don't want to give him away, right?
No.
Then we should go apologize.

Half a year later, winter came.
He lived for 15 years and 3 months— The cause of death was old age.
Maru passed away peacefully with Mrs. Suzuki at his side.
And now... at our place...
there are three cats.



Inu wo Kau Chapter 3
by TANIGUCHI Jiro

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#DRAT
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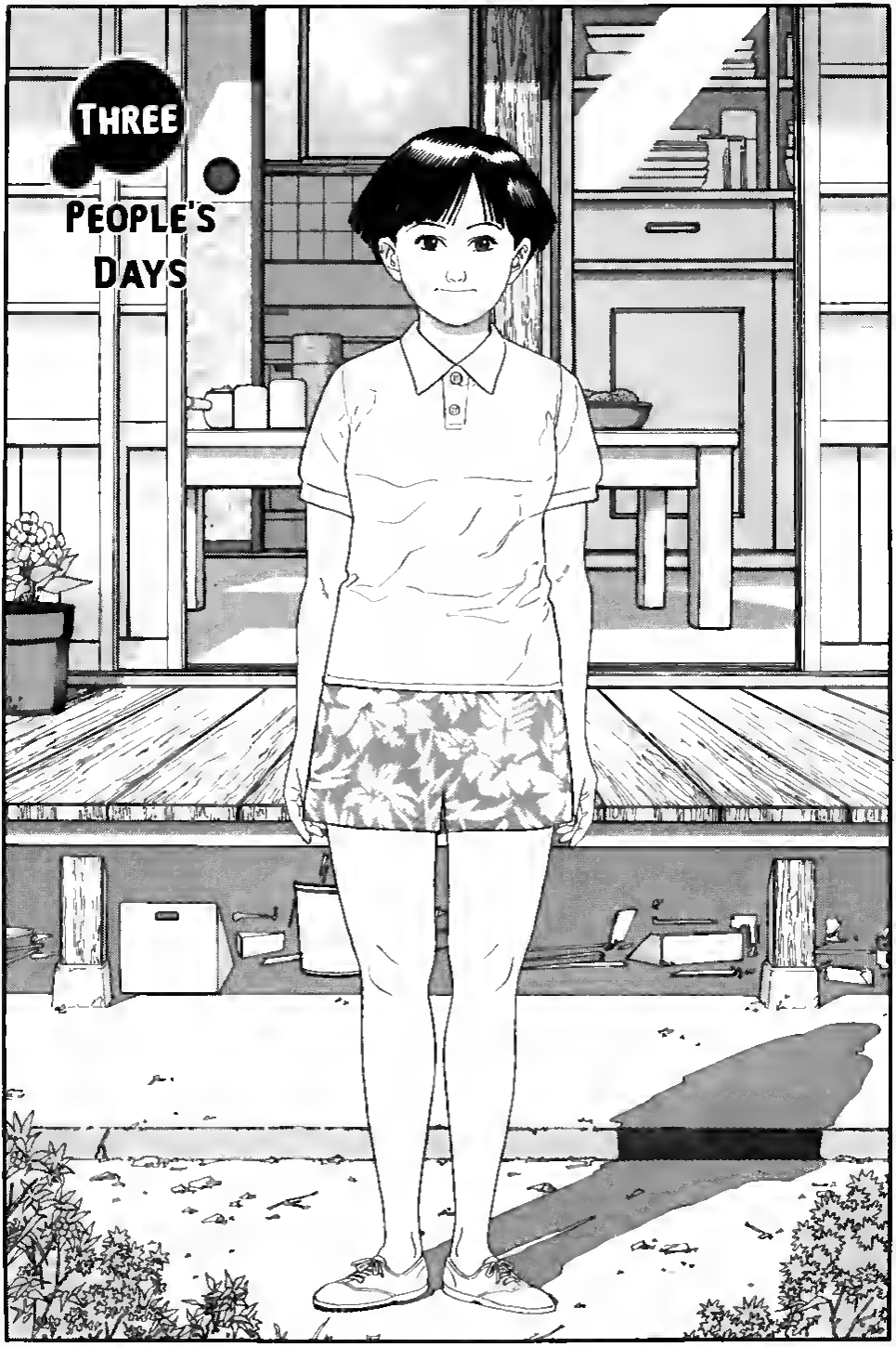
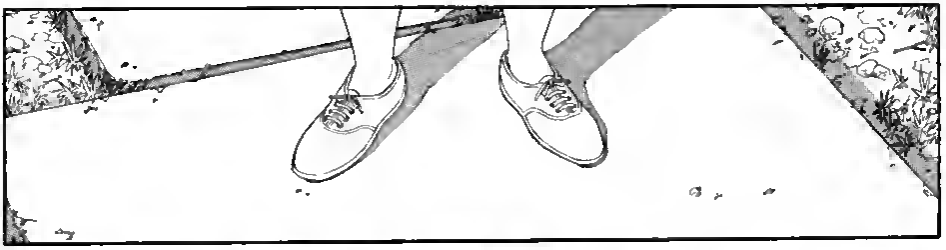
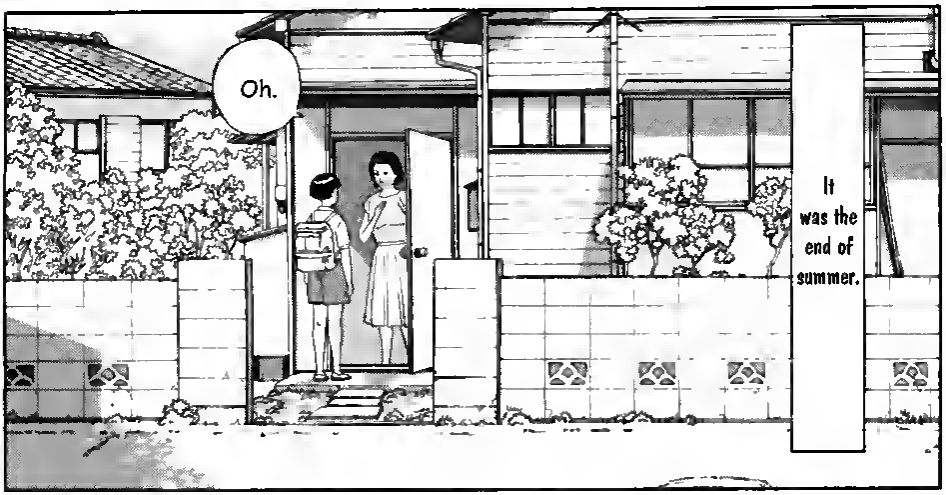
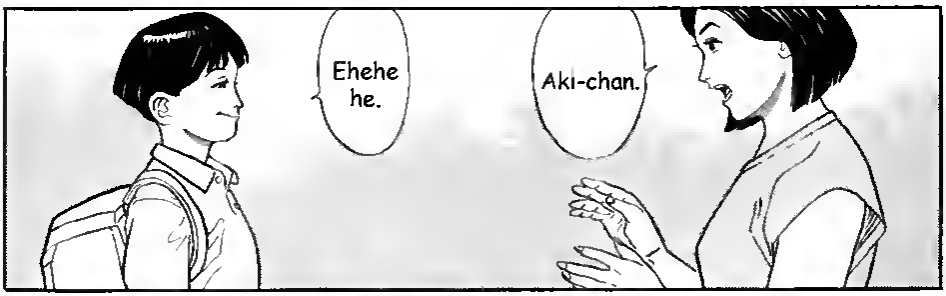
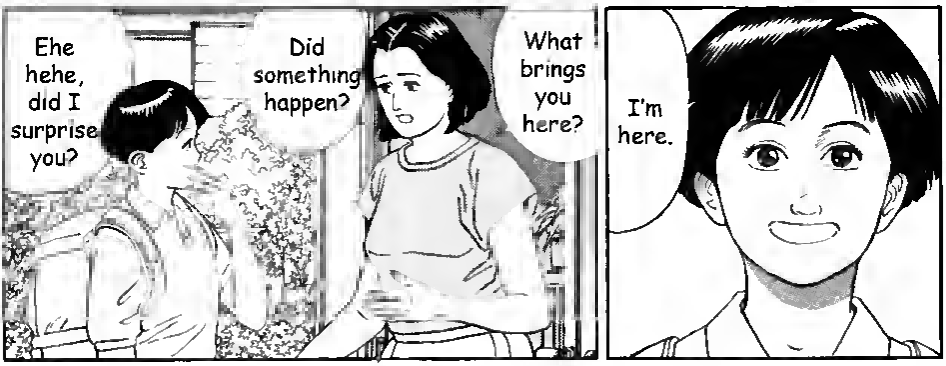
ARIENAI!
#Arienai!
@irc.irchighway.net


THREE
PEOPLE'S
DAYS




Oh.
It was the end of summer.


Ehehe he.
Aki-chan.


Ehe hehe, did I surprise you?
Did something happen?
What brings you here?
I'm here.

How adorable ~~~
Meow
Ah!
What about school?
Of course.
Whoa~~
Aki-chan.
Your summer vacation is over, right?
Hey, when did you get a cat?
Such a strange cat.
Ahaha ha.
You've got three of them.
Aki-chan!
What's going on?
Tell me why you're here!

Do we have a visitor?
I'm home.
Huh!?
Uncle.
Welcome home!
Meow
Huh?
Aki-chan...?
Aki-chan, right?
I'm visiting.
How old are you now?
I'm 12 years old!
It can't be helped. She said she ran away from home.
Eh, seriously?
You've grown up—
Sfx: Bow

saying that I'm going to Takya.
Yeah, I left her a nate,
Does your mather know you're here?
I just came here far fun.
Na.
But, I think when my mam reads the note, she'll call here.
Yeah... I know.
That's no good.
Aki-chan, this is what they call "running away from home." Your mather must be warried...
I'll talk ta her then...
But right now, I don't want ta go home...
I'll help out, too.
I won't get in your way and
I'll be a good girl.
...

Akiko is the only child of my elder sister, who lives in my wife's home town Takasaki city, in the Gunma prefecture. She suddenly came to our place at the end of summer during her first year in middle school.
Dear mom,
I'm going to Tokyo. Don't worry about me because I'm visiting auntie. Sorry that I didn't tell you before, but I'll be back before school starts.
-Akiko
Her father passed away when she was 7 years old.
We're fine. Though, is it all right with you?
I'm sorry if she's bothering you.
I panicked a bit.
Yeah I know ..
Oh... I see that's what happened...
Shibazaki-san ..?
Oh... is he the one you may be remarrying?
...I think it must be about Shibazaki-san...
...

I guess it's not possible after all... she's at a difficult age too...
No not at all. Aki-chan is such a good child.
since I spoil her...
I think you're doing fine.
I made Akiko meet him a few times though...
Ohh-kay.
It's your mom.
Aki-chan.
No problem. I'll handle it.
Thank you.
If she doesn't listen to you, scold her as you like
Akiko was very mature on the phone and said that she only left to cheer herself up.
We ended up taking care of Aki-chan for one week, the rest of her summer vacation.
...So,
don't worry about me...
Animals are much easier to be with.
12 years old... we would never be able to understand what children think at that age.

Oh,
yau con caok taa?
Taday, I'll cook in return far yau letting me stay.
Yau can cook far us every-day!
Waw, thot's excel-lent.
I can caak, like, ham-burger steak and stew taa.
Of caurse, I'm a girl.
Curry with rice.
Th... that.. um...
I mean... I was anly saying that I'll be goad.
Well, Aki-chon, yau did say that you'd da anything I say.
Eh—. No way.
Ah— this one.
I'm the one poying far it yau know.
Meat!
I want a reolly gaad ane!
Oh well, what else do we need?
Good, gaad.
All right.

That sounds interesting.
Whoa,
Ehehe he.
The secret of the recipe is to add honey and a bit of pineapple.
Aki-chan can cook many other things too.
This is really yummy.
Seriously? I'm glad!
No way
Ahaha ha.
Then why don't we ask Aki-chan to cook everyday.
I see.
That's right.
Yeah.
Auntie said the same thing.
Sfx: Ahhahaha!
I relaxed a bit. I felt like we could have some fun like this every day.

Aha
You were still small.
It's from three years ago when you came here with your mom.
See, this one.
...
We ran around together and...
I took him on a walk at the riverside.
That's right, back then, Tum was here too.
As we get older ...
there are times when we're surprised by how fast time flies and children grow.
Aki-chan's already in middle school...
Time flies ..
Our beloved dog, Tum, died of old age over a year ago.

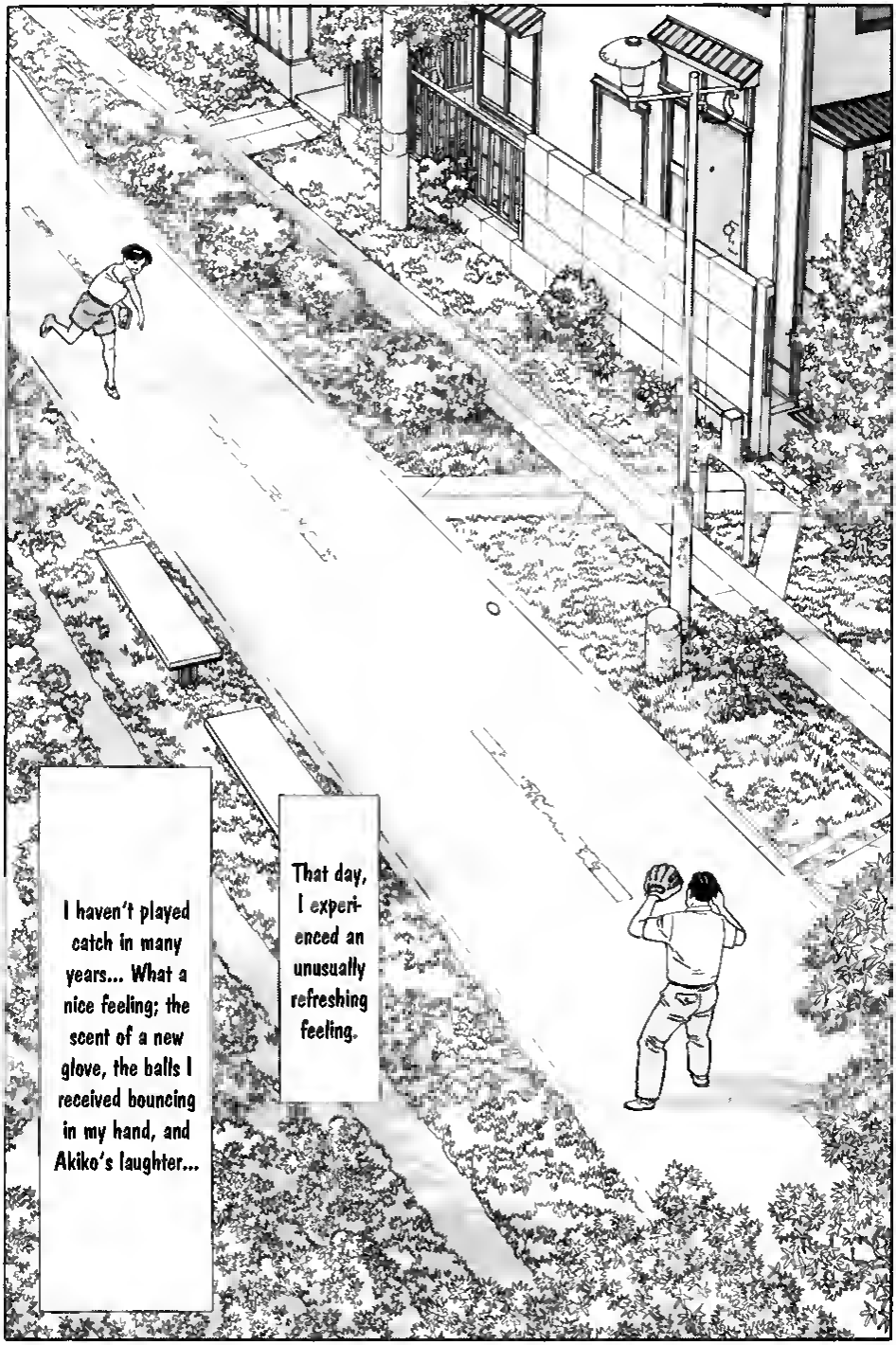
A night game!
Then I want to watch a baseball game!
I'll take you anywhere you like.
Like Harajuku or Disney-land.
I have tomorrow off,
so how about we all go some-where?
I love baseball!
Yep
a night game?
Eh,
The next day--
西武球場前駅
The match that day was Seibu vs. Kin-tetsu.
We went to the Seibu Baseball Stadium. It's a 30 minute trip from our place by train.

It seems like my wife's enjoying herself as well.
It's nice out.
Oh,
What a beautiful field.
Wow.
My wife doesn't know anything about baseball. She came with us unwillingly.
I can't wait to tell my friends at school.
This is already amazing for me, since I get to watch Kiyohara and Destrade.
It's my first time watching a night game.
that I couldn't bring you to the Tokyo Dome.
I'm sorry
KIYOHARA
3
We got to see a Kiyahara homerun.
Ah!

Sfx: Whaa--
Kintetsu tries their best too. Nomo pitches. Arai hits.
There're female judo practitioners and pro wrestlers.
Girls can da anything too.
...
Why can't girls play baseball?
I wonder why.
Akiko surprisingly knew a lot about pro baseball.
Inter-esting!
That'd be awe-some!
Yeah there could ...
Why's there no female pra baseball team?
There could be one.
It was 3 - 4, a close game. Seibu narrowly won.
Then she told me about her dream of making a female baseball team in the future.

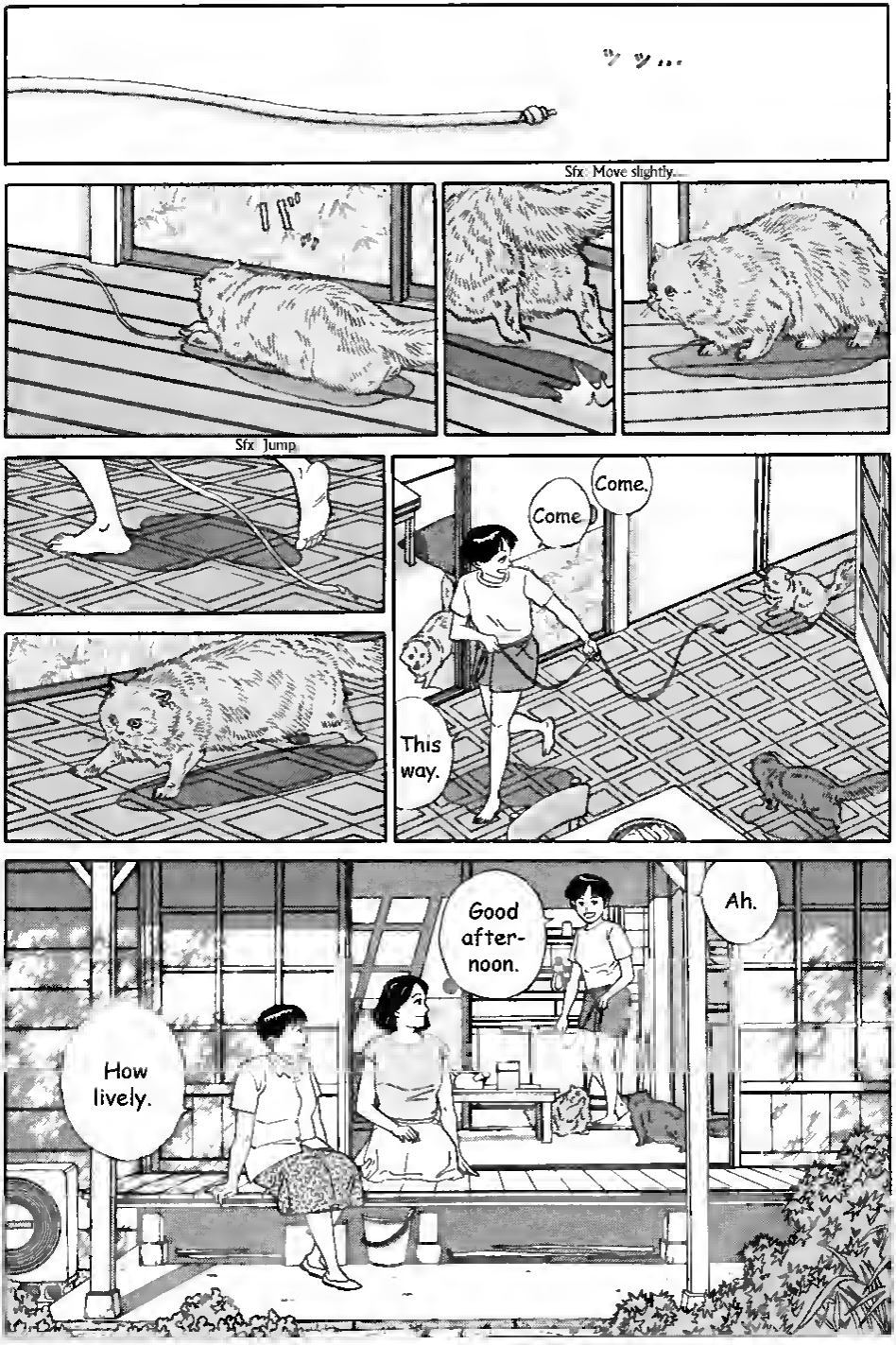
It's a present for you.
Here you are, Aki-chan.
Sfx: Thud
Heh.
In the bag?
What's that, dear?
Open it up.
What is it?
Whoa
Guys, dinner'll be ready soon!
I know, just a bit.
Only a little bit!
Let's play!
Yep
Sfx: Punch
I got it!
Ah, yes!
Sfx: Rustle, rustle
Wonna play catch?
Awesome! It's a glove from Mizuno!

スパ
Sfx: Slap
This kid!
The glove is still stiff!
You're not good–
Oops.
Sfx: Slap
Hm!
Sfx: Whoosh
Ahaha ha.
Um. My shoulder hurts.
How pitiful.
Give me a sec; I need to warm up my shoulder.
Uncle!
Your throw barely made it here–


I haven't played catch in many years... What a nice feeling; the scent of a new glove, the balls I received bouncing in my hand, and Akiko's laughter...
That day, I experienced an unusually refreshing feeling.

I don't understand.
It's just so bitter. What's so good about it?
Puhaaa— Having a beer after working out is the best!
Gulp
Gulp
Gulp
It's good that you have a playmate now hon.
Hmph!
Children wouldn't understand it.
It's an acquired taste
Suddenly, our home became lively... I thought that perhaps, this is how families and homes should be.
Kyaha haha!
Yes. You're right
Thank you very much.
I'm only preventing her from getting bored, right?
What're you saying!
See!

Sfx. Gulp!


ツ ツ...
Sfx: Move slightly...
Sfx: Jump
Come.
Come.
This way.
Ah.
Good afternoon.
How lively.

But she's going back to her home since summer vacation is almost over.
You guys are going to be lonely once she's gone.
Thanks to her, Boro and the others didn't get bored
They're killing me.
Also the high school entrance exams
I even think it would be nice if there was no summer vacation.
If it were me, I'd be grateful.
Imagine three kids wandering around the house for a whole day. It's awfully difficult.
My wife kept nodding quietly.
We don't really understand these kinds of problems since we never had a child.
Uh...
Unh...
When we get old there'll be only the two of us; my wife and I... I can't say that I don't feel the anxieties about our future.

Well... I just thought thot I should take care of her, at least while she stays here ..
That's all.
You look like you're having fun every-day.
You're coming back home earlier than usual too.
Am I...? You think so?
Only... three doys left.
Anywoy, I'm glad Akiko seems to reolly be enjoying herself.
You don't need to be...
I'm groteful to you.
It doesn't seem like it.
Huhu... Is that all?
Twelve years old– You could say that this is the first passing point that children go through to become adults.
I agree.
In the end, there's nothing we can do to solve her problems so,
I guess it's good to treat her like this...
Yeah...

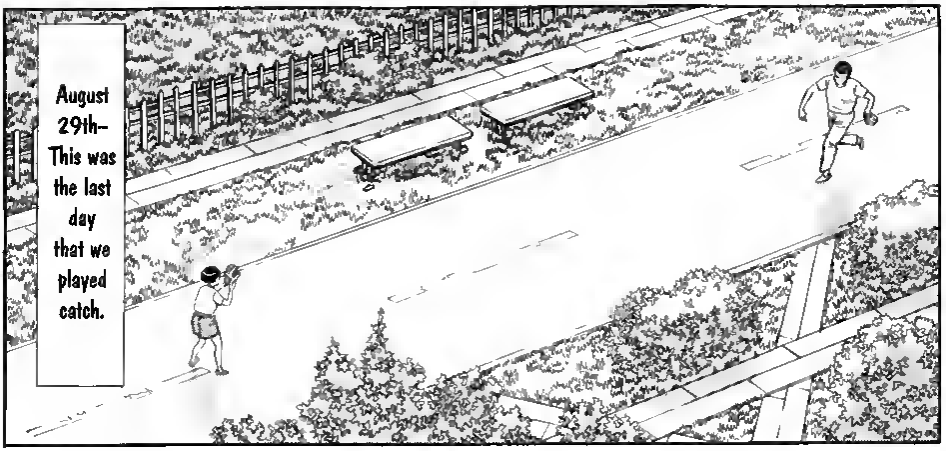
Hey, don't let go!
This guy scratched me!
Meow meow
Ouch!
Myaow!
Akiko helped sham-poo cats.
This cat, Goma, is the warst one.
Meow
Meow
Meow
Aki-chan!
Hurry up and go get him!
yaur mom's caming ta pick yau up in two days?
Isn't it good that
...
This house treats me like a slave
Phew ～
ゴト
Here we go.
Thanks far your hard work!

Sfx Goh

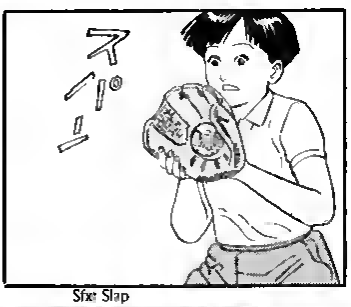
I...
Hey, auntie,
what would you do if uncle dies before you die?
...
don't know...
This is a pretty hard question.
I've never thought about it.
Would you marry someone again?
Eh!?
But ...
sometimes I think that
I see ...
And I cannot think about it.
Because we're still together.

That's why.. If someone who I can lave as much as I lave my husband appears, I might marry again.
...
a human ar an animal, you can't live alone.
whether yau're
If he listens ta all af my worries and I listen ta his... then the relationship becames samething else, it's nat abaut liking or disliking sameane.
It's sa much better than being alane
...
It must have been taugh.
She cauldn't rely on anyone far the past six years and raised yau by herself.
I think yaur mom feels the same.
.. Yeah.
サクッ
He must be a nice persan since he's the ane yaur mam likes.
...
Yau should trust your mam

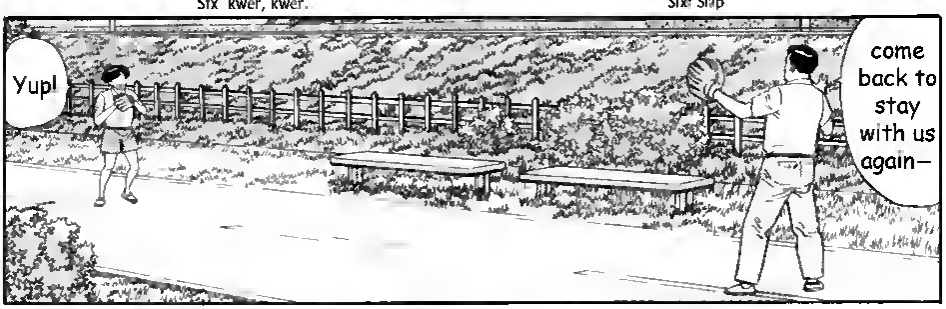
Sfx: Bite



Sfx kwer, kwer.



Sfx Slap

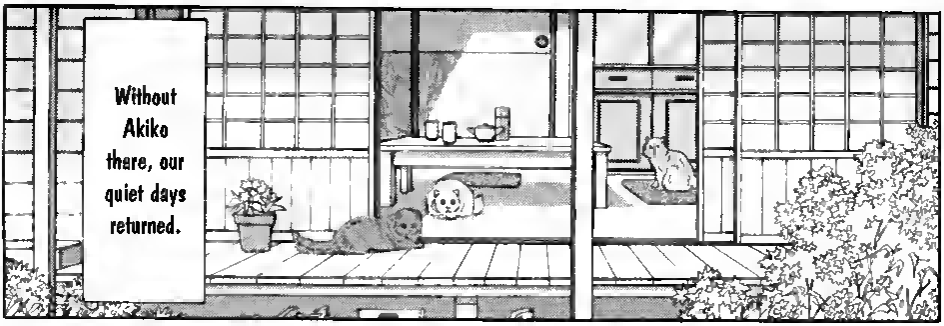


*The National High School Baseball Championship of Japan, commonly known as "Summer Koshien", is an annual nationwide high school baseball tournament.

Strike!!
We kept playing catch until we couldn't see the ball in the darkness.
Yup.
Let's go home.
Play ball!
Play catch with your new father.
Take this one with you too.
...

Good luck.
Yes that's right.
You should just take advantage af him like this, taa.
Thank yau...
Uncle.
Take it easy.
Sfx Roll, roll
Sfx Drop

And with that, the summer ended.


Without Akiko there, our quiet days returned.

One month later–

Akiko smiled happily in the photos. She had the same cheerful face as she had in our home during the summer.
We received a letter from Akiko. There were many photos enclosed in the envelope.

Dear uncle and auntie, how are you?

Thank you very much for taking care of me this time.

I really enjoyed every day. I treasure the gloves that uncle gave me. Thank you so much, uncle Shibasaki.

Likes baseball too so I'm pretty relieved. He's a fan of

Kyojin. I'm not happy about that though. We play

catch every day. He was very happy when I told him

that I want to make a female baseball team and sai

that he'll help me out. What he said made me cry a

little. This is the first time I've felt like this. That's why,

as uncle said, I've decided to take advantage of him. My

mother looks so happy too. She said "thank you Aki-chan"

so many times. I've seriously started to practice batting.

Shibasaki-san coaches me. I feel like I can get along

with him.

I will never forget about this year's summer holiday.

When I'm down, I'll remember what you two told me.

It's your turn to come to Tarasaki. I'll be waiting.

Inu wo Kau Chapter 4
by TANIGUCHI Jiro

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Proofreaders: Naota10, mangafly
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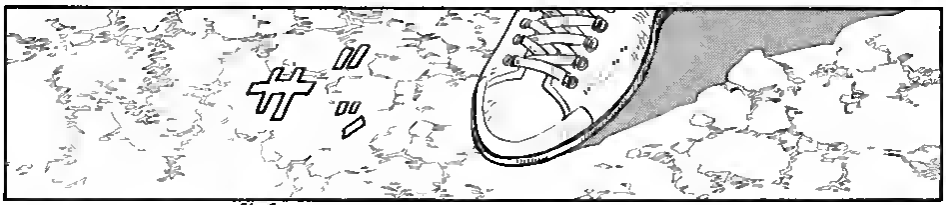
#DRAT
@irc.irchighway.net

ARIENAI!
有り得ない!
#Arienai!
@irc.irchighway.net

PROMISED
LAND

Nepal– Himalaya. Annapurna massif. This is a gigantic series of peaks, one of which is an eight-thousander. It was the first eight-thousander to be climbed in recorded history.

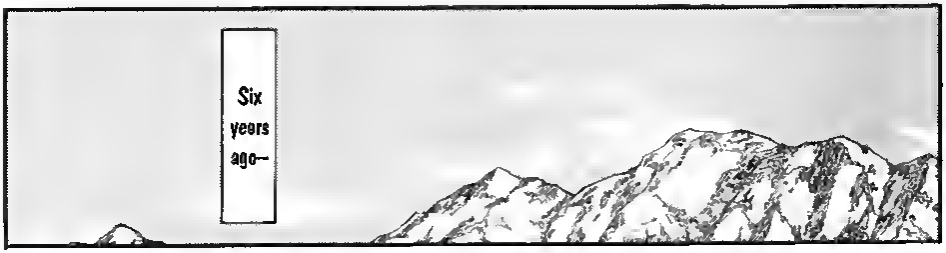


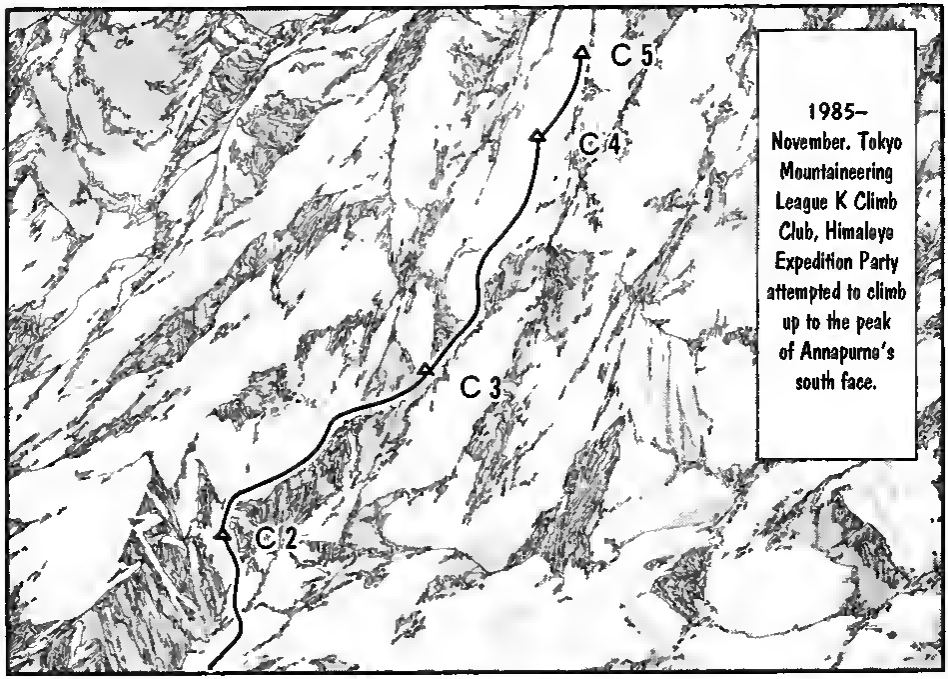
Sfx: Step

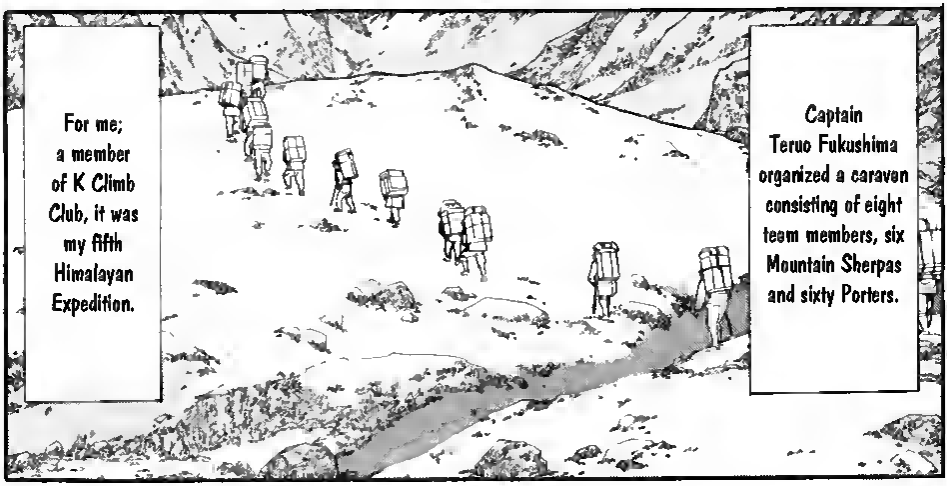
Even in this snowstorm, the massif stands magnificently before my eyes. Its dignified appearance hasn't changed.

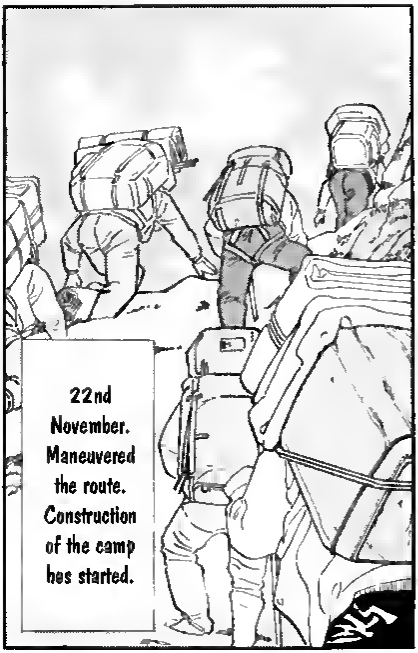
I find myself here once again...

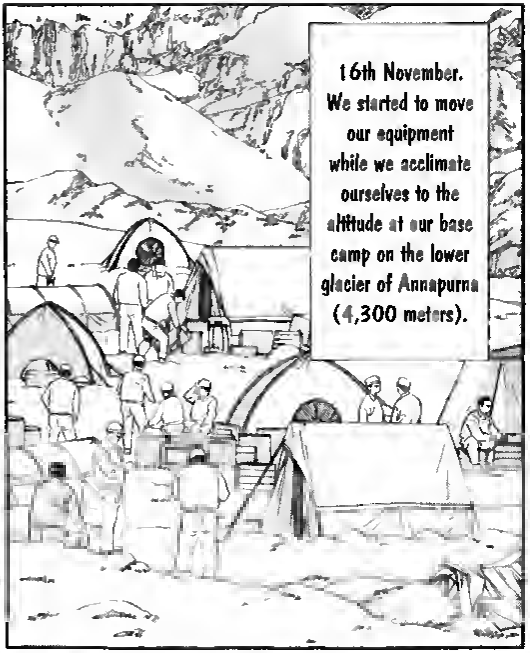
TADASHI
YOSHIMURA
22-12-85
I turned 40 that year.
I've returned.
... Yashi-mura.
I've come back ta see that illusion one more time.
Sfx: Clack
Please watch aver me.
what I've accom-plished with my life.
...This Mountain will shaw me...

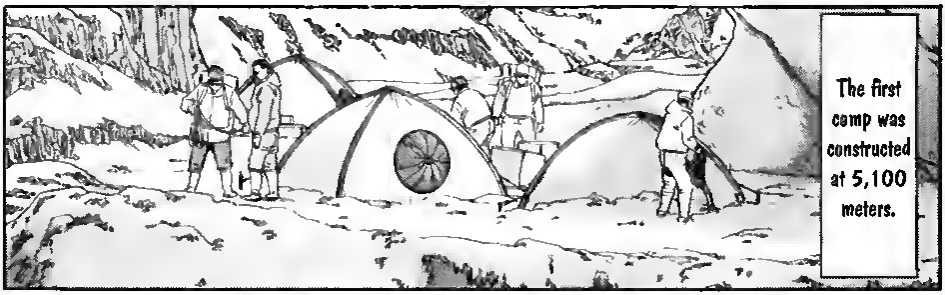

Six
years
ago--

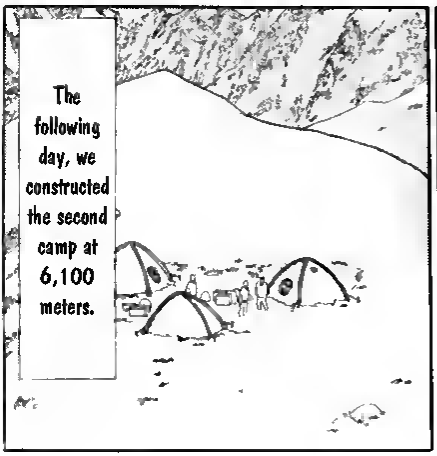

C 5
C 4
C 3
C 2
1985--
November. Tokyo
Mountaineering
League K Climb
Club, Himaleye
Expedition Party
attempted to climb
up to the peak
of Annapurna's
south face.

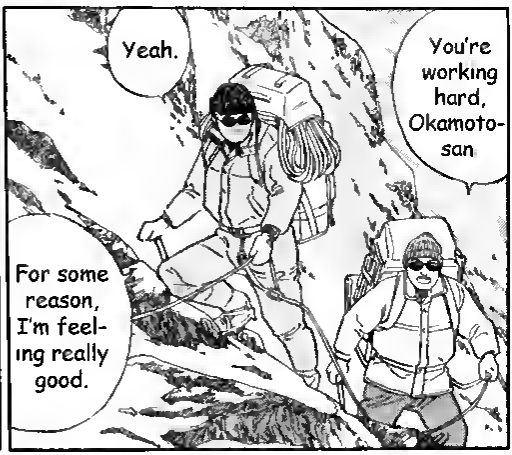

For me;
a member
of K Climb
Club, it was
my fifth
Himalayan
Expedition.
Captain
Teruo Fukushima
organized a caravan
consisting of eight
team members, six
Mountain Sherpas
and sixty Porters.


22nd November. Maneuvered the route. Construction of the camp has started.

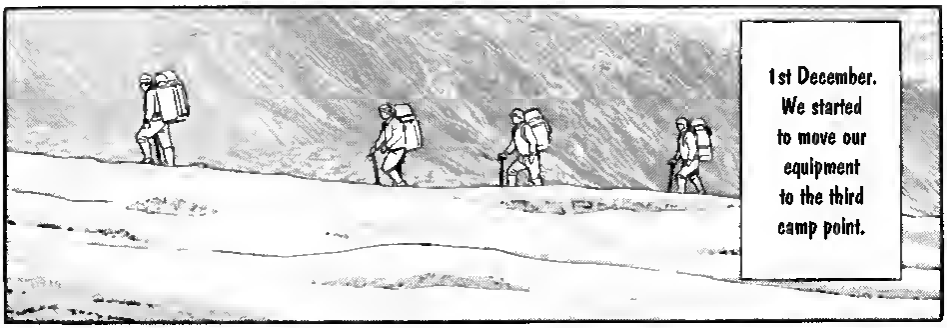

16th November. We started to move our equipment while we acclimate ourselves to the altitude at our base camp on the lower glacier of Annapurna (4,300 meters).

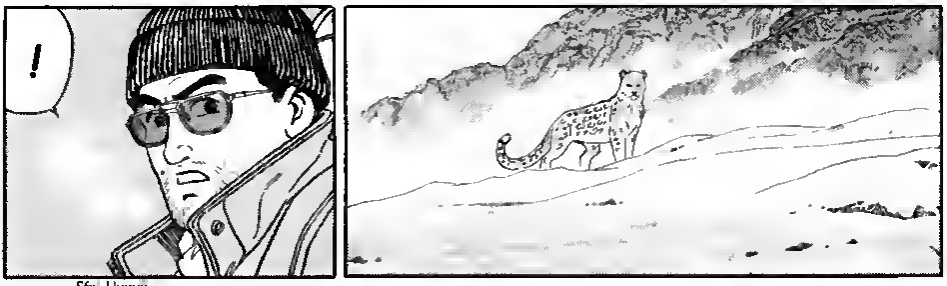

The first camp was constructed at 5,100 meters.


The following day, we constructed the second camp at 6,100 meters.

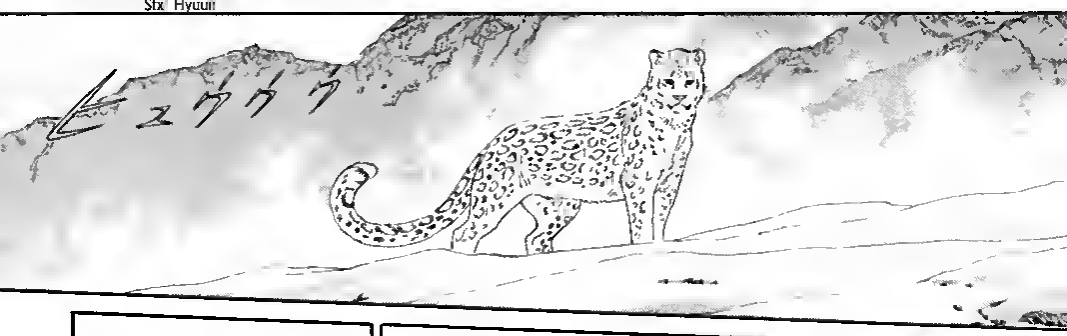

Yeah.
You're working hard, Okamoto-san.
For some reason, I'm feeling really good.

And I'm old olreody.
Yeah, many things have hap-pened
Okamoto-san, I've heard thot this expedition will be your last ottempt at the Himoloyas?
Anywoy... it's really too bod.
Okomoto-san's o newlywed.
Oh, that's right.
Also, I promised my wife.
No woy, these high mountoins ore getting to be too much for o guy my oge.
Whot're you saying? You're only 34, oren't you? It's just the beginning.
Sfx: Slurp
And, for your kid's soke too,
we've gotto make it to the peok
Thot's why I chonged my mind.
Yeah... ond I've got o kid on the woy. My wife's pregnont.
Well congrotu-lotions!





Sfx: Hyuuu



Sfx: Vyuu

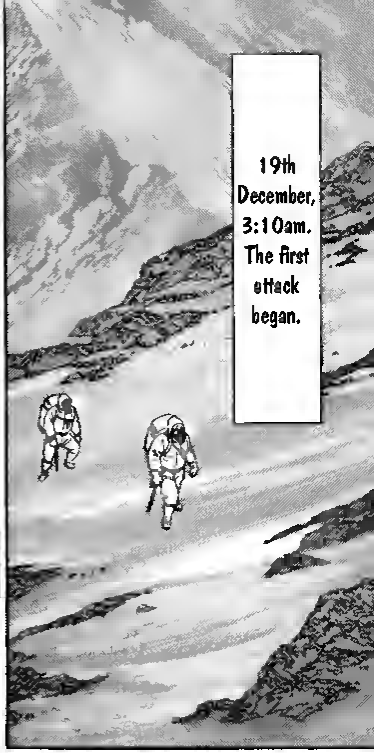
There's no way... at this altitude...
It looked like an animal but...
Sfx Hyuuuii
I didn't tell anyone what had happened that day.
Maybe, I still haven't acclimated to this altitude...?
I'm not getting enough oxygen, I'm seeing things...
This isn't good...
Sfx Step
6,850 meters.
Constructed the third camp.
Five days later, climb party's plan was created at the base camp.
And then the forth camp was constructed at 7,400 meters. From this point onward we wore oxygen masks while we slept.

Hanestly, everything has gane sa smoathly sa far.
We've all dropped our guard a bit withaut naticing.
Hawever, fram now on it'll be much taugher. Please be extra careful.
Kuroto, Maruki, and Yamasaki are the supporting team.
Everyane, please toke gaad care af yourselves until yau reach the summit.
We'll hove four members for the ottock Shimodo ond Ounuki ore teom ane,
and Yoshimuro and Okamoto are team twa
Well, I'll onnounce the attack members naw.
I couldn't believe it...
I didn't expect to be chosen as an attack member, even if it was the second team.
That made me really happy.
Captain Fukushima and the others... They all supported me in my last Himalaya attempt.
Sfx: Hyuuuuuuu

The last camp was constructed at 7,700 meters.
13th December.
And then left some oxygen cylinders for our descent at point G.
They put up fluorescent taped bamboo sticks in the snow at the route.
Yoshimura, Dorje; the head of Sherpas, and I went to plan the route to attack the summit.
...

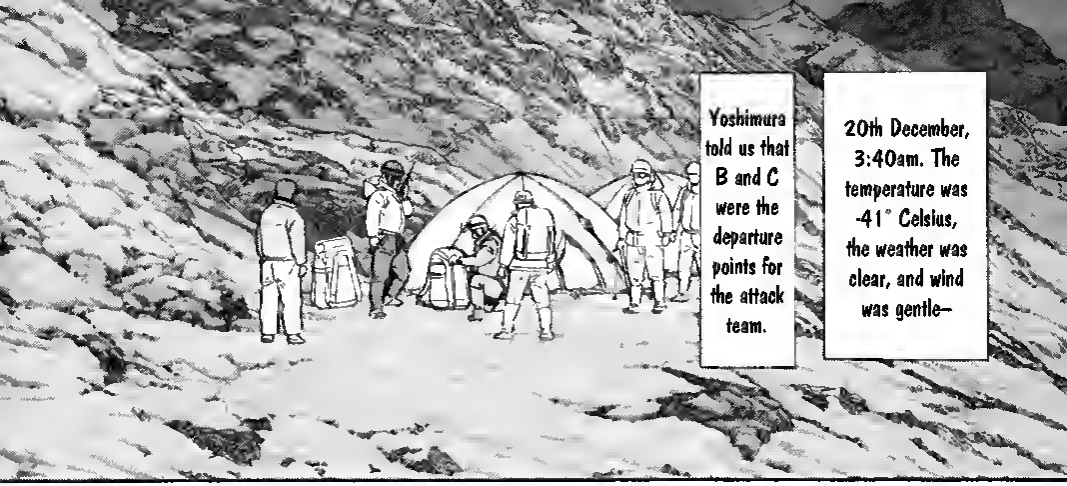
Ah!!
Did you see that just now?!
It was right there!
An animal that looks like a panther...
Aah ...
What happened, Okamoto-san?
Yes.
There is.
No animal can survive at this altitude.
No way...
What you saw is an incarnation of the goddess that lives on Annapurna. You don't see it often.
That must be a Chango. (Snow Leopard)
You're so lucky.
Dorje ...

How-
ever...
Sfx: Vyuiiiii
as the
sun rose,
the weather
suddenly took
a turn for
the worse—


19th
December,
3:10am.
The first
attack
began.

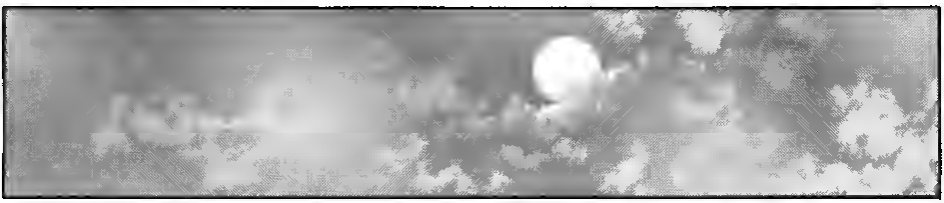
Eight hours later—
The first attack team
gave up when their
route was blocked by
snow drifts from the
storm. Fortunately,
they descended down
the mountain safely.
When
you climb
in the winter,
you have
to expect the
unpredictably
rough weather.

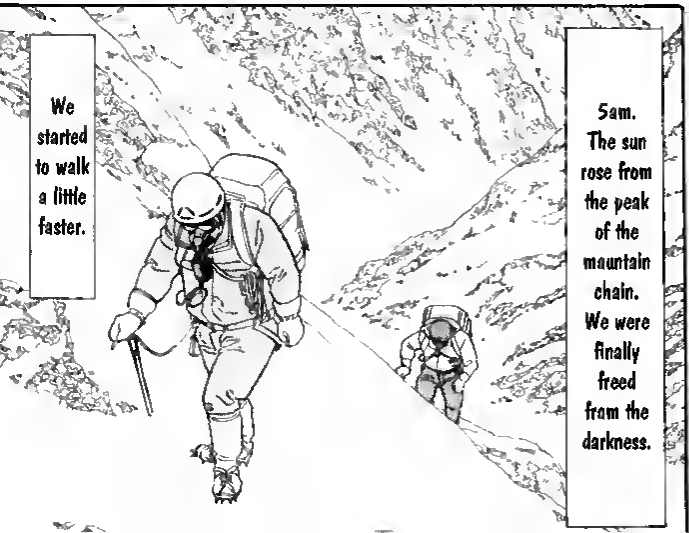
Yes.
I under-
stand.
We'll
move to
the fifth
camp now,
over.
Then, following
morning, when
we were at the
forth camp, we
received permis-
sion to go for a
second attack.
At points
B and C,
the other
members
kept an
eye on the
weather.


Yoshimura told us that B and C were the departure points for the attack team.
20th December, 3:40am. The temperature was -41° Celsius, the weather was clear, and wind was gentle–

Thank you, Dorje.
You have luck.
You can do it, Oka.

Yup Let's do our best.
We'll get to the summit no matter what.
Let's do it, Oka-moto-san

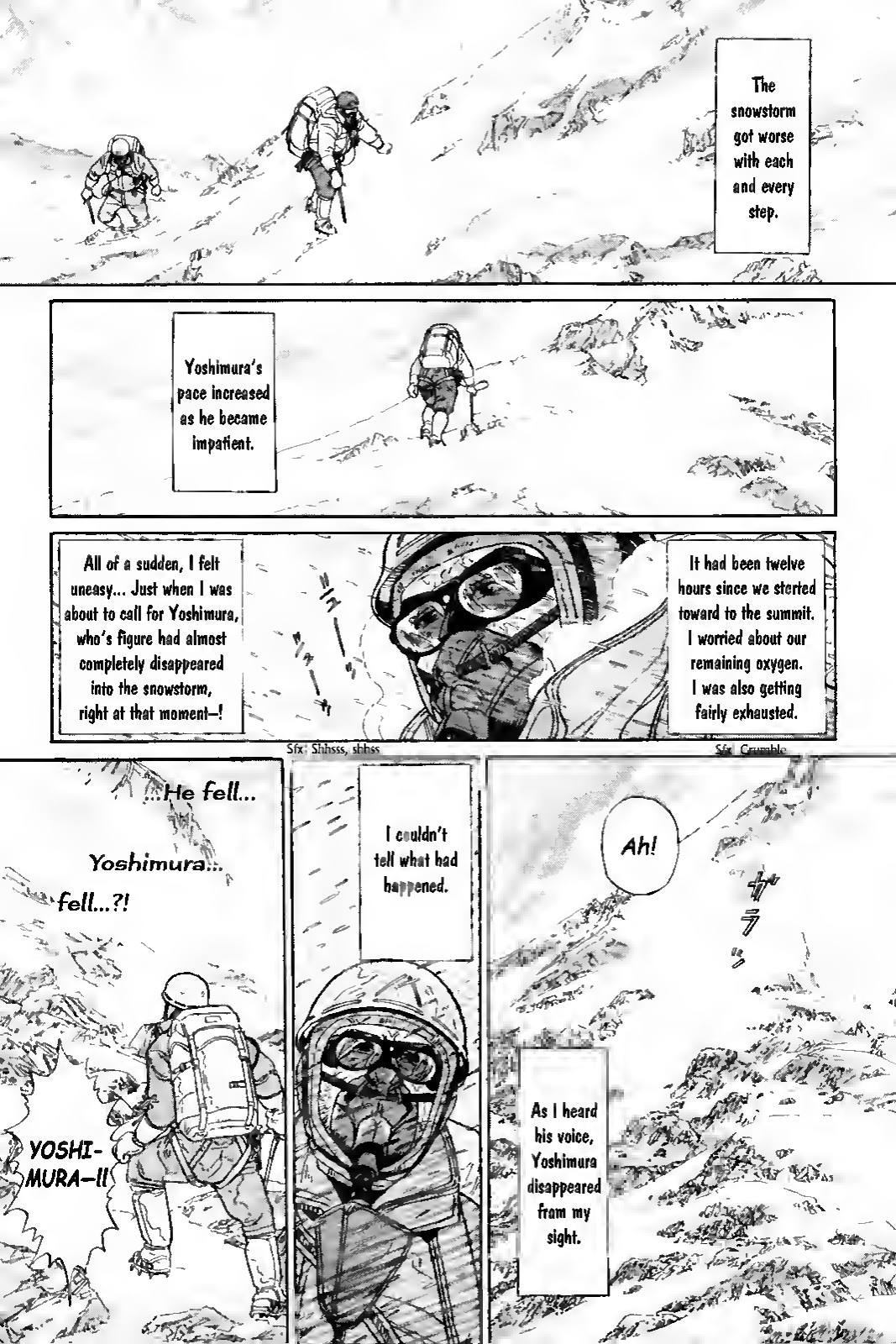


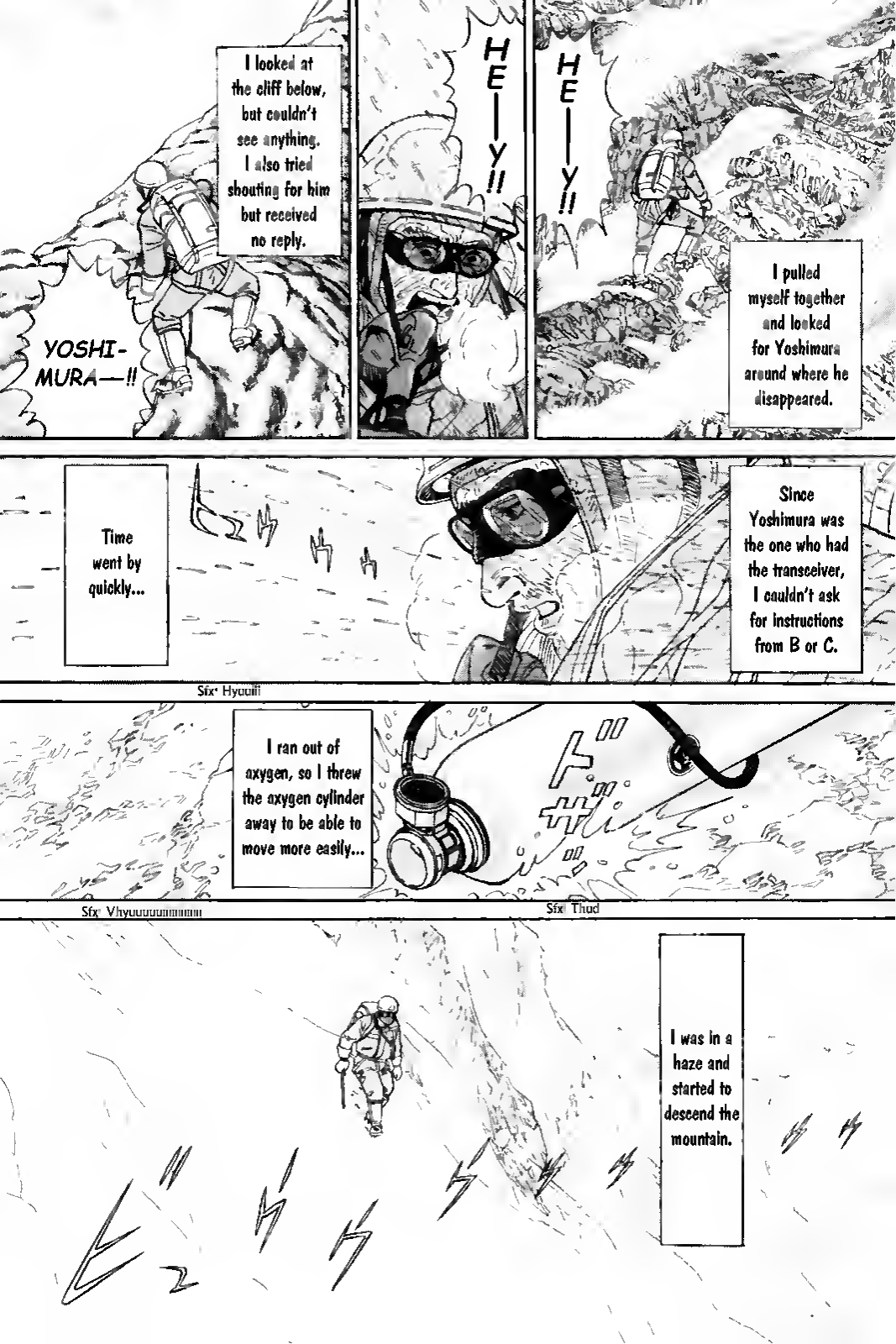

We started to walk a little faster.
5am. The sun rose from the peak of the mountain chain. We were finally freed from the darkness.

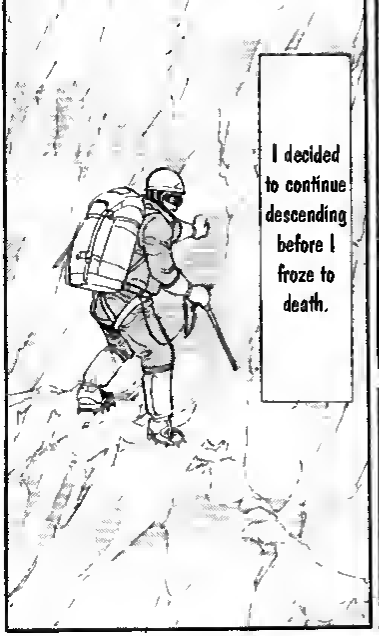
We carefully followed the route.

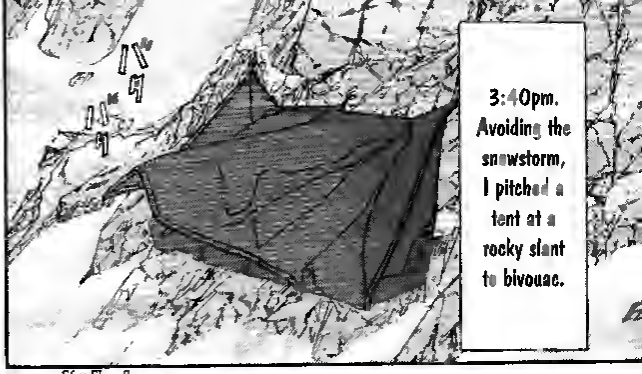
We tried to avoid danger and traversed the wall slowly.
It took us three hours to go over the icy wall and get to the rocky area.
The first team gave up at this point.
However... an unexpected icy wall blocked the route.
Like last time, the clear weather we had experienced in the morning turned sour.
10:20am. The wind got stronger. We started to use the oxygen...
Sfx: Vyuuiiii
Haa
Haa
Haa
Oxygen flow was set to two liters a minute. We had around twelve hours of oxygen.
We changed the lead occasionally and climbed up slowly.
We probably couldn't be seen by the spotters at points B and C.
The wind slowly got stronger and forced us to fall behind schedule.

Just for a second... we could see a rocky tower within the fog.
Sfx: Vhyuuuuuu
We can make it, Okamoto-san!
we only have about 150 meters to the peak.
If that's the case,
Sfx: Shhsss
Yeah... maybe...
Is it the summit ...?
Th... is that?!
HELLO, WE'RE 150 METERS BELOW THE SUMMIT NOW!!
1:15pm. Yoshimoto got in touch with points B and C. The transceiver's reception was bad. We couldn't hear them clearly over the static.
Sfx: Vhyuuuuu
SHU— PLEASE BE CAREFUL AND DON'T OVERDO. ZZ. GO. ZZ. ZZ.
YES, I UNDER-STAND!!
WE'LL GO AS FAR AS WE CAN! DO YOU COPY, OVER?!
BUZ... ZZ... CAN'T... SITUATIO... ZZ... SHU—
I THINK WE CAN GET TO THE SUMMIT AROUND TWO HOURS TIME!!
STRONG WINDS BLOWING FROM THE SOUTH-EAST...

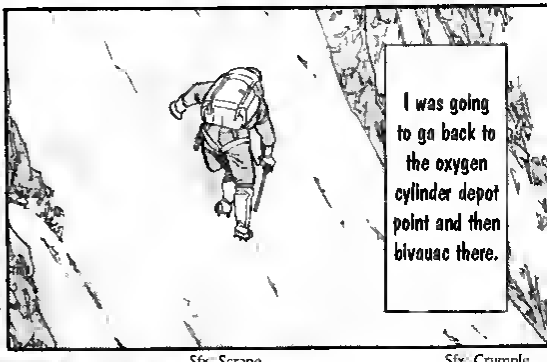

The snowstorm got worse with each and every step.
Yoshimura's pace increased as he became impatient.
All of a sudden, I felt uneasy... Just when I was about to call for Yoshimura, who's figure had almost completely disappeared into the snowstorm, right at that moment—!
Sfx: Shhsss, shhss
It had been twelve hours since we started toward to the summit. I worried about our remaining oxygen. I was also getting fairly exhausted.
Sfx: Crumble
...He fell...
Yoshimura...
fell...?!
YOSHI-MURA—!!
I couldn't tell what had happened.
Ah!
As I heard his voice, Yoshimura disappeared from my sight.


I looked at the cliff below, but couldn't see anything. I also tried shouting for him but received no reply.
YOSHI-MURA—!!
HE—Y!!
HE—Y!!
I pulled myself together and looked for Yoshimura around where he disappeared.
Time went by quickly...
Since Yoshimura was the one who had the transceiver, I couldn't ask for instructions from B or C.
Sfx: Hyuuu
I ran out of oxygen, so I threw the oxygen cylinder away to be able to move more easily...
Sfx: Vhyuuuuuuuuuuuu
Sfx: Thud
I was in a haze and started to descend the mountain.





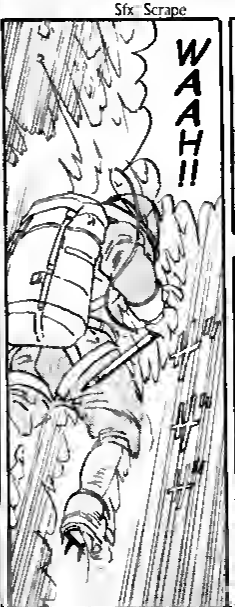
Sfx: Flap flap

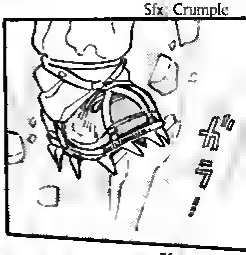


Sfx: Scrape

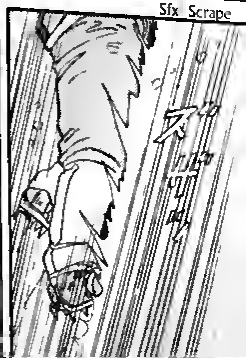
Sfx: Scrape

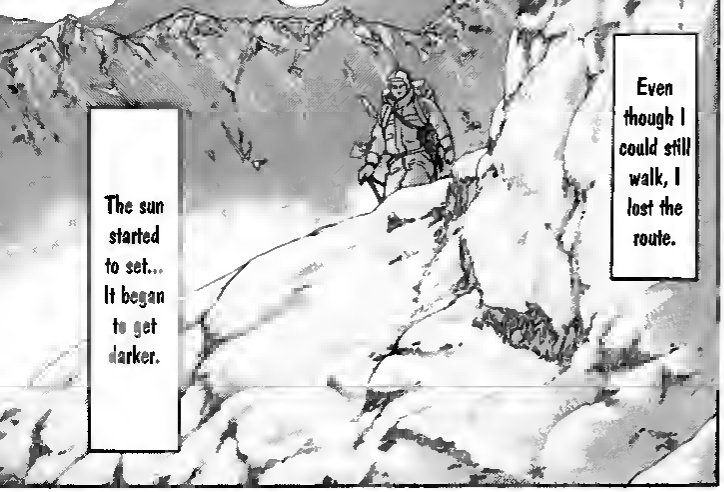
Sfx: Crumple



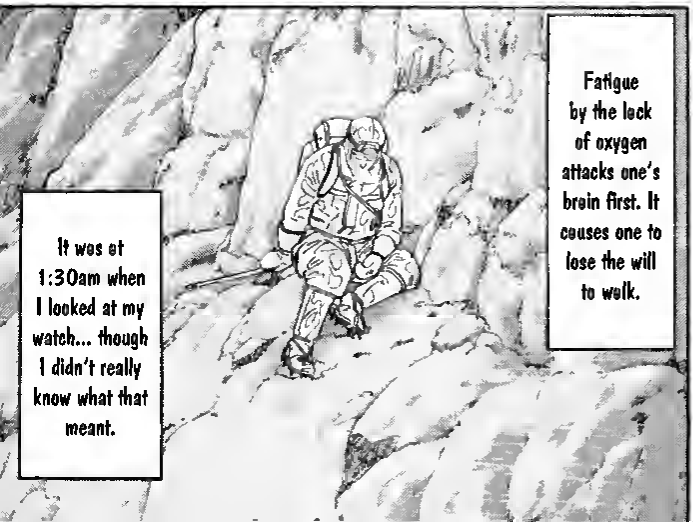


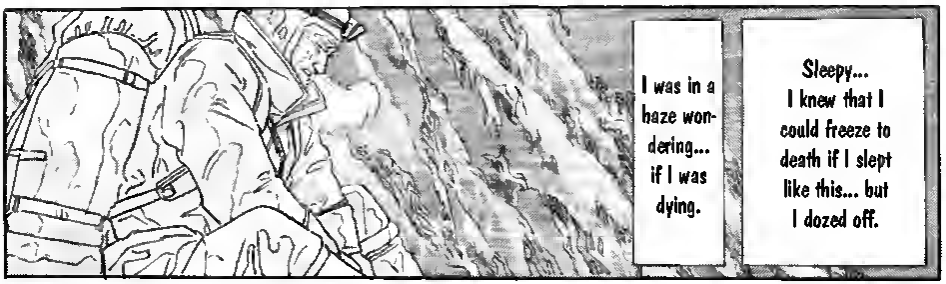
Sfx: Scrape



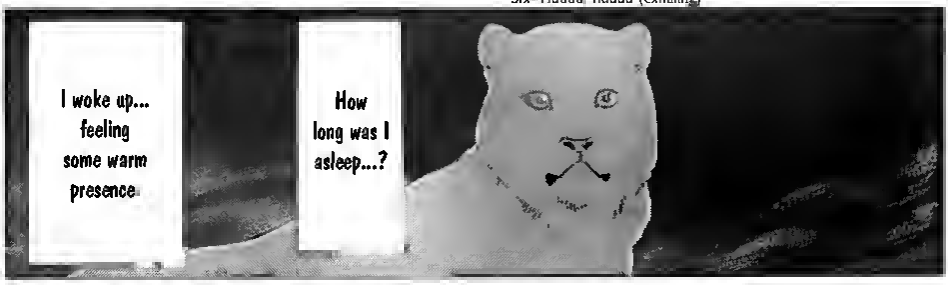


Sfx: Vhyuuiiiii


It was at 1:30am when I looked at my watch... though I didn't really know what that meant.
Fatigue by the lack of oxygen attacks one's brain first. It causes one to lose the will to walk.



Sfx: Huuuu, huuuu (exhaling)

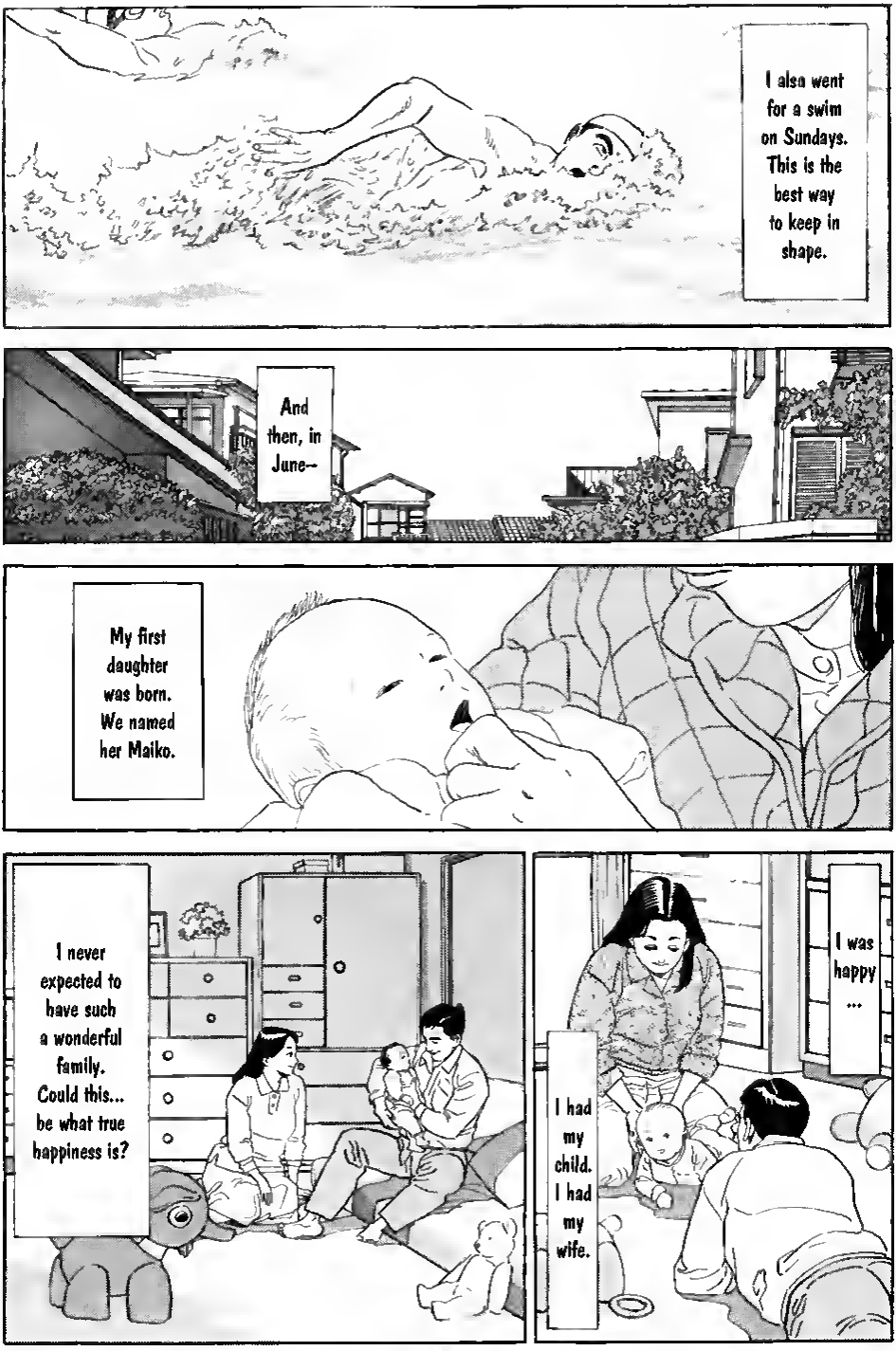


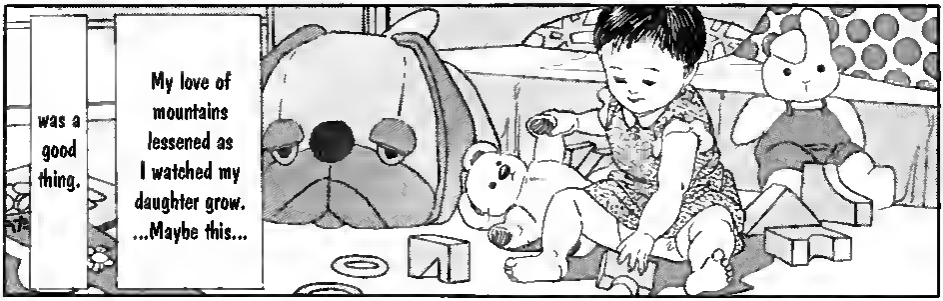
What a beautiful animal...
Oh... you're...
Uu..
Ah...
Don't go...
...Don't go...
Wait for me...

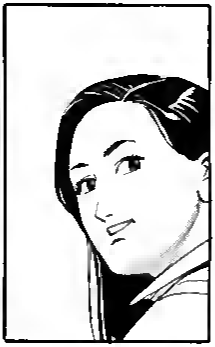
I unconsciously followed the animal ...
AH! OKA-MOTO-SAN!!
HE'S BACK! IT'S OKAMOTO-SAN!!
Our Annapurna South Face attempt in the winter of 1985 ended with one death and a total altitude of 7,900 meters.
In the end... we couldn't find Yoshimura's body.
21st December, 5:10pm. I was found by the support unit that had come to rescue us. It was a miraculous meeting.

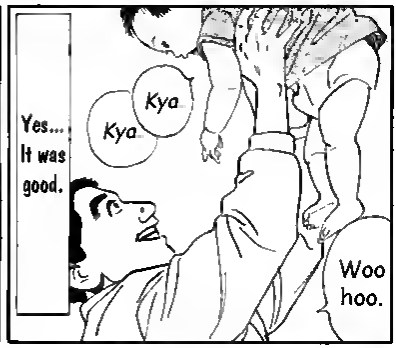
I'm back.
Welcome home.
The following January—
My new life started after my sorrowful return.
Although I couldn't openly show it because of my promise to my wife, my strong feelings of attachment stayed deep inside of me.
Despite this... I couldn't completely forget about that mountain.

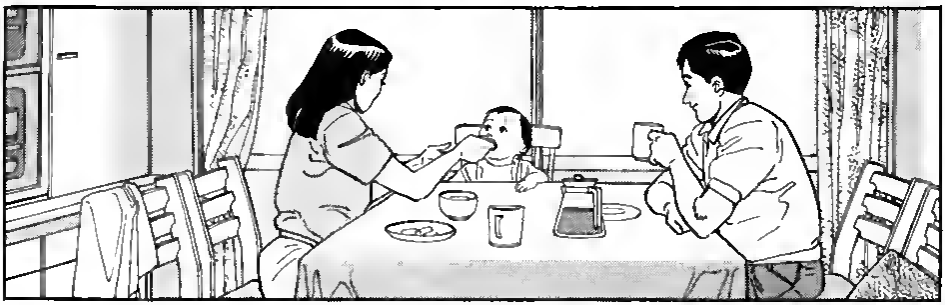
A friend of mine helped me to get a job in an electronics shop in Tokyo after I had qualified as an electrician that spring.
Okamoto-san,
can you take care of that installation in Azabu?
Yes.
Once I got used to my work and everyday life,
NEC
I started to go jogging after I got home.
I must do my best
for our baby.
That's the only excuse I could give my wife.

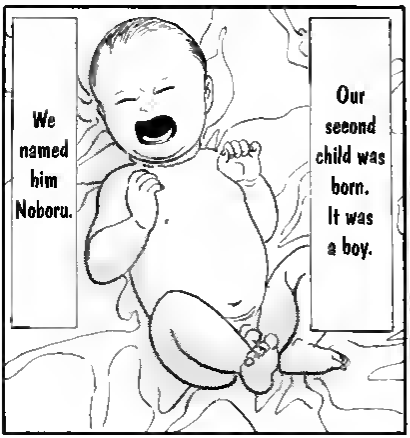

I also went for a swim on Sundays. This is the best way to keep in shape.
And then, in June--
My first daughter was born. We named her Maiko.
I never expected to have such a wonderful family. Could this... be what true happiness is?
I had my child. I had my wife.
I was happy ...

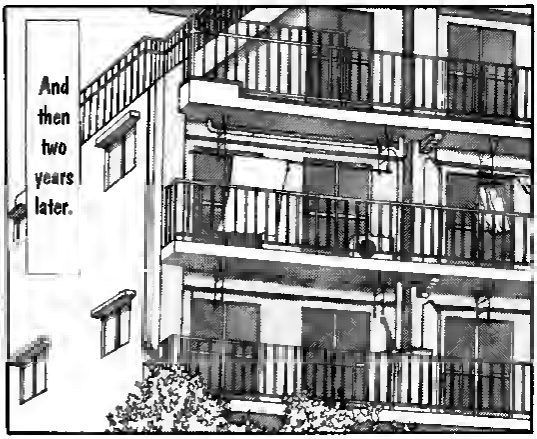

was a good thing.
My love of mountains lessened as I watched my daughter grow. ...Maybe this...




Yes... It was good.
Kya
Kya
Woo hoo.

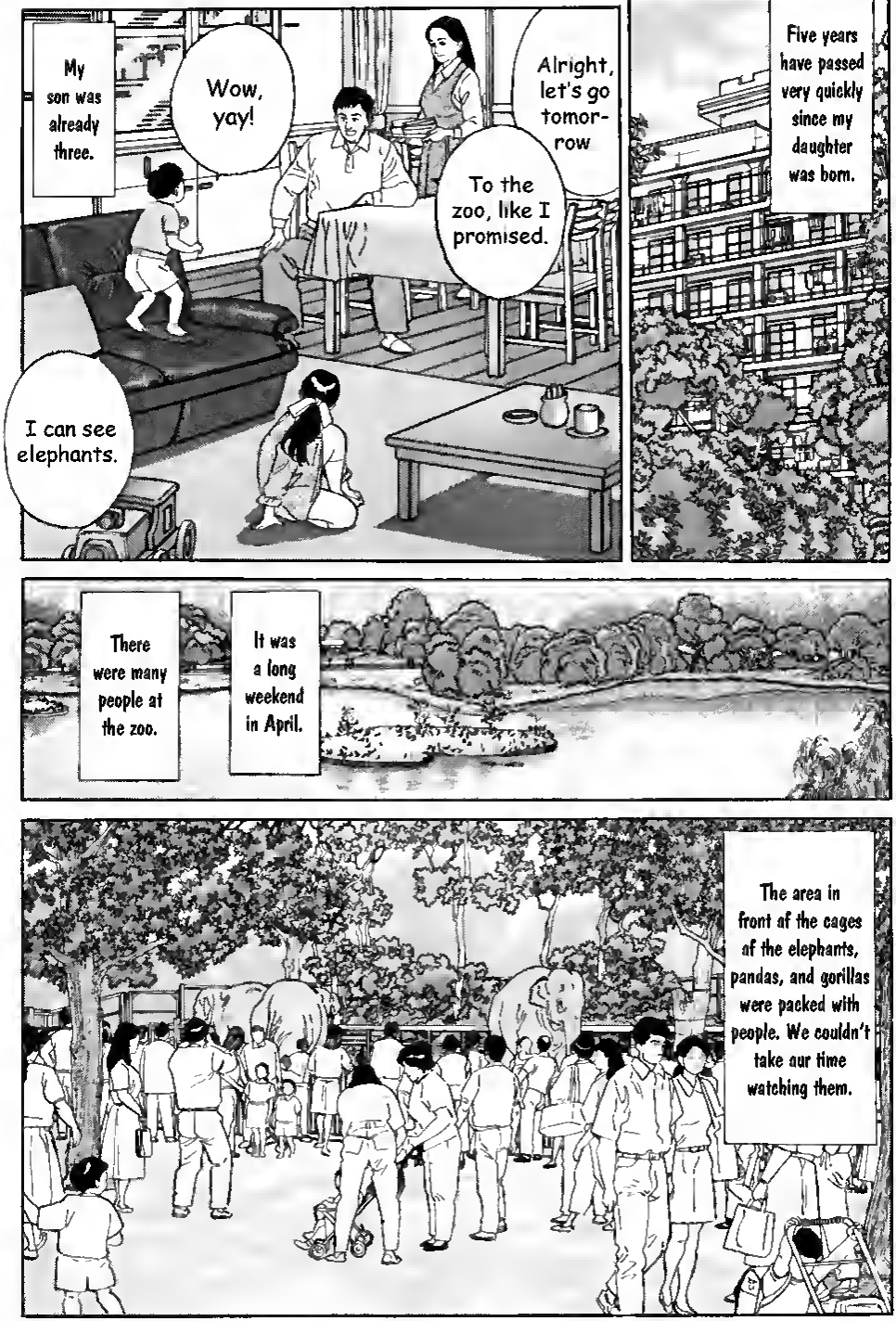



We named him Noboru.
Our second child was born. It was a boy.


And then two years later.

that has become irreplaceable and my reason for living.
I have to protect this happy family life
I wouldn't be able to part with this life now.
You never show your face at the club now.
Oh hey
Nozaki-kun, long time no see
Okamoto-san!
Sure!
How about some tea or something?
Do you have some time?
sorry about that.
Yeah,

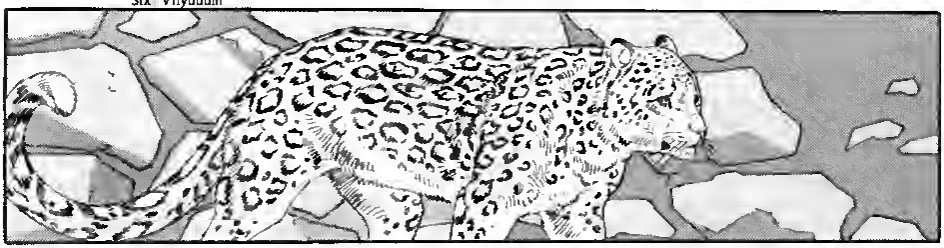
Everyane was saying that yau'd come back.
But I respect you, Okamata-san. Yau've given up mauntains campletely.
I've chosen mauntains aver my wife.
Idiats! Yau guys were talking abaut stuff like that, huh?
I... gat divarced.
Hmmm .. I see.
That's not true. I'm already 32 as well!
And besides, I'm already taa ald ta return.
That's why they're my first priority.
Althaugh, I have two children now... and I lave them.
Even thaugh I dan't climb, I'd be lying if I say I dan't miss it a little
I visualized the Himalaya Mountains for the first time in many years – I had almost forgatten about it and felt as if it was a memory from a distant past.
I was just lucky that's all.
Hahaha. Please dan't aver-estimate me.
Everybady respects Okamata-san's motivation.
Annapurna back then... I remember it clearly.

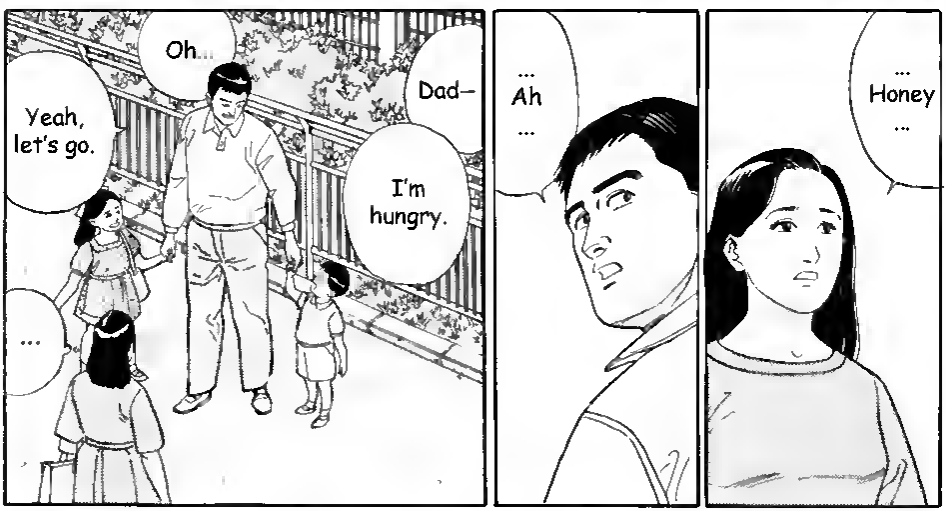

My son was already three.
Wow, yay!
Alright, let's go tomorrow
To the zoo, like I promised.
I can see elephants.
Five years have passed very quickly since my daughter was born.
There were many people at the zoo.
It was a long weekend in April.
The area in front of the cages of the elephants, pandas, and gorillas were packed with people. We couldn't take our time watching them.

There're just so many people
Would you like to rest a bit?
...!
Dad,
what hap-pened?

a... Snow Leop-ard...?
Is... is this ...

Sfx: Vhyuuuuu

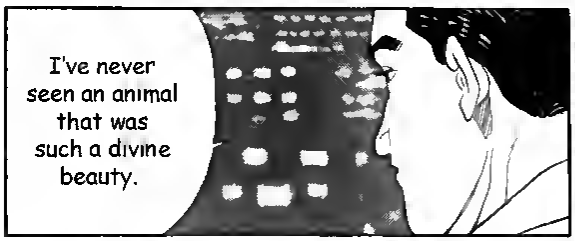




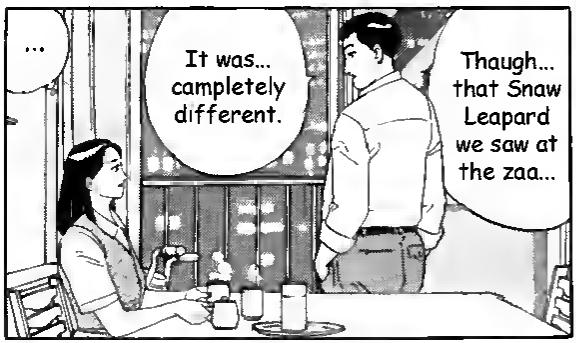
Sometimes I dream of that day. ...The Snow Leopard looked at me quietly.

I couldn't relax... I continued on uncomfortably for days...

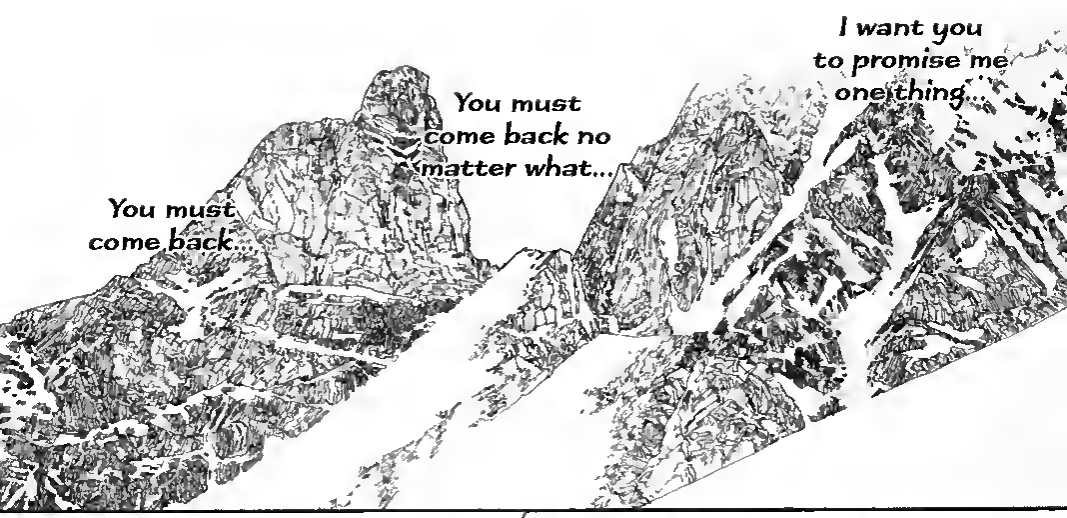
It's the Snaw Leapard that saved yau right?
Yeah, I remember it well.


I've never seen an animal that was such a divine beauty.

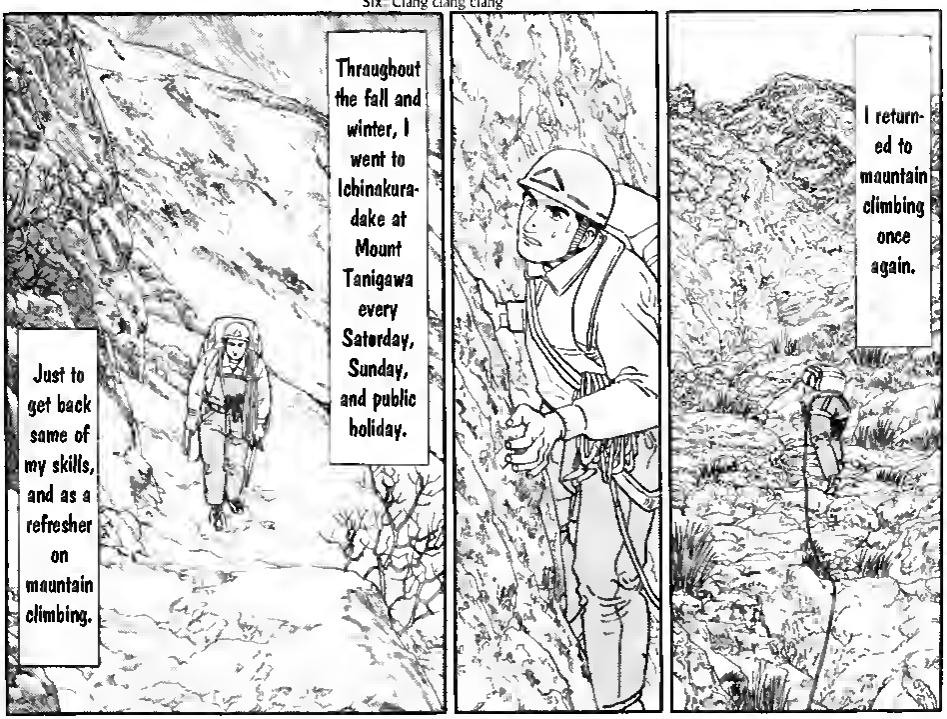
It wasn't an illusian at all.
Na matter haw hard I try, I can't farget it.
Yeah... I believe that yau saw it.

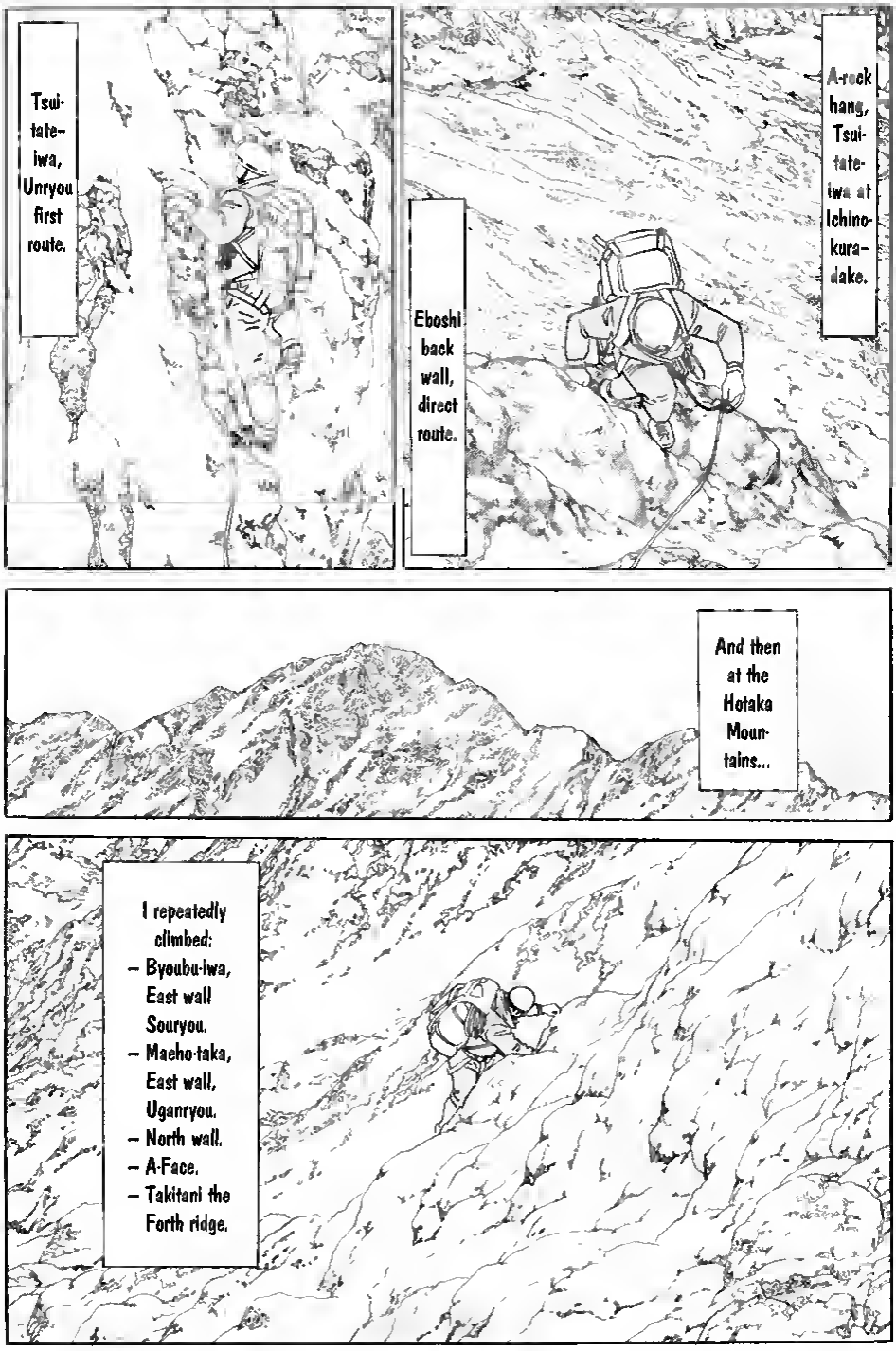

...
It was... completely different.
Thaugh... that Snaw Leapard we saw at the zaa...

Ta the Hima-layas ...
that yau've been dreaming of.
... Yashika ... yau...
Huh?
You can go.
It's alright.
and thaught that the reasan yau've kept an jagging and swimming up until naw is that yaur lave af mauntains lies somewhere within yaur heart.
I've been watching yau all these years,
I knew that you haven't been able ta farget abaut it...
But yau've dane mare than enaugh...
for us.
That thought always made me nervaus ...
I was afraid that one day yau might return ta the mauntains...



Sfx: Clang clang clang

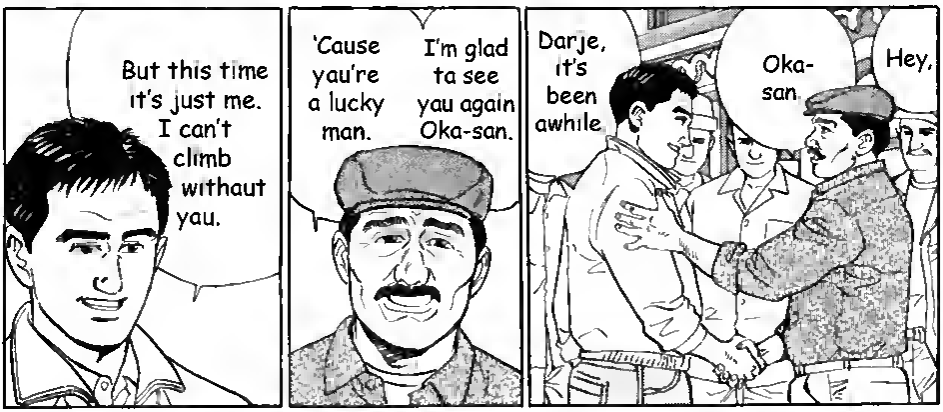

Throughout the fall and winter, I went to Ichinakura-dake at Mount Tanigawa every Saturday, Sunday, and public holiday.
Just to get back some of my skills, and as a refresher on mountain climbing.
I returned to mountain climbing once again.

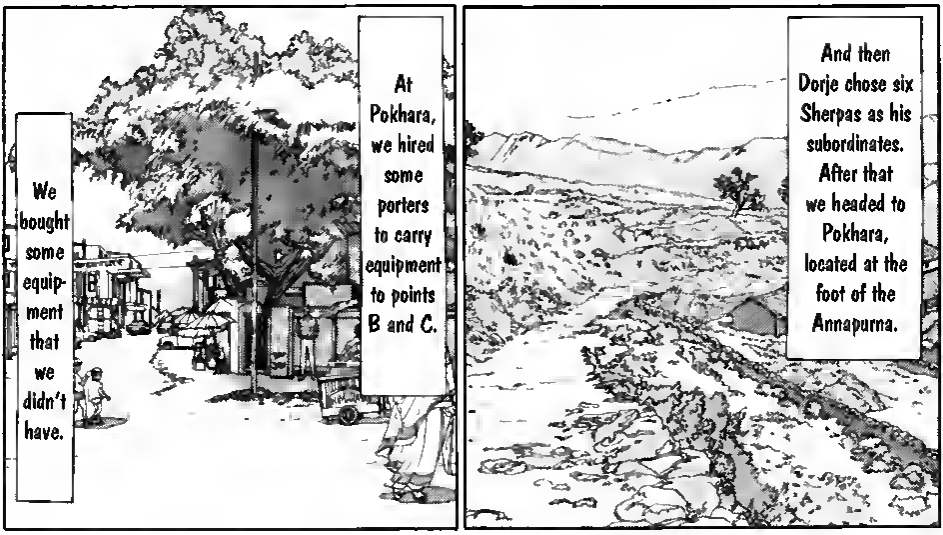

Tsuitate-iwa, Unryou first route.
Eboshi back wall, direct route.
A-rock hang, Tsuitate-iwa at Ichino-kura-dake.
And then at the Hotaka Mountains...
I repeatedly climbed:
– Byoubu-iwa, East wall Souryou.
– Maeho-taka, East wall, Uganryou.
– North wall.
– A-Face.
– Takitani the Forth ridge.

If you're a gaad boy,
He'll give you samething nice.
Dad daesn't play with me anymore.
Dad is busy with samething very impor-tant.
Bear with it.
Hey,
hey,
mam–
Spring, 1991–
Hmm. I see...
Three months huh...
Yes!
Thank yau very much!
All right.
I'll be waiting. Please come back safely.
...I'm sorry.
You've been working really hard... well... I guess, you could have a vacation like that.
Nah. Actually, Matsuda, wha intraduced yau, tald me that a day like this wauld came.

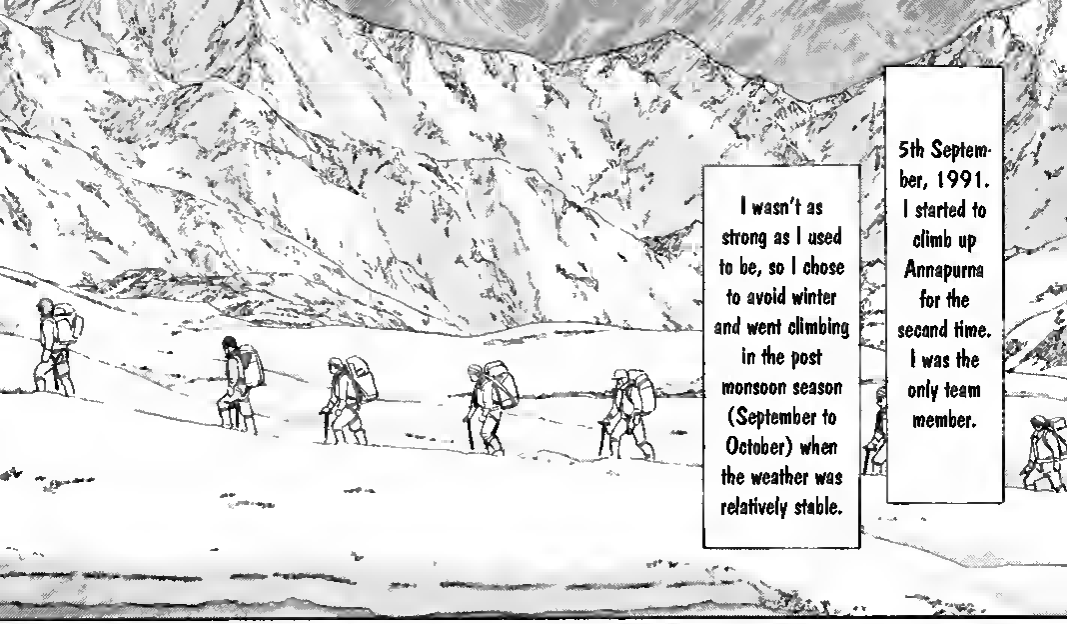
Seeing her smile, I didn't know how to thank my wife.
Good luck.
I used some of the money we were saving for a house to cover the costs for this expedition. It was two million yen*.
*Around USD 22,000
I promise... This is the last time.
I'm sorry Yoshiko ...
Uu...
That makes me.... really... sad...
I wish I could throw myself on you to stop you from going there,
but I can't do that looking at how you are now.
I'll be back no matter what. That's the only souvenir that I can return to her kindness.

I arrived at Katmandu in August, 1991.
I appointed and met Darje, the head of Sherpas again after six years.


But this time it's just me. I can't climb withaut yau.
'Cause yau're a lucky man.
I'm glad ta see yau again Oka-san.
Darje, it's been awhile
Oka-san
Hey,

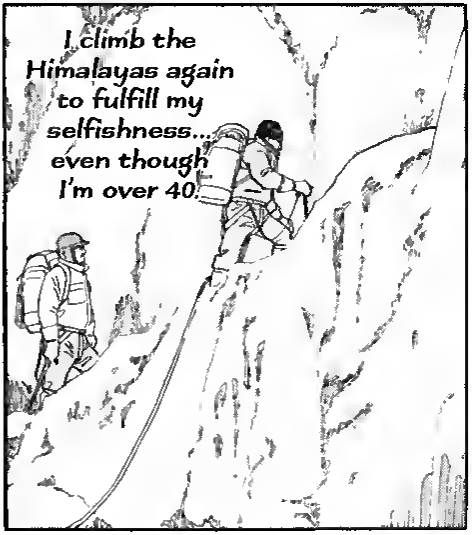

We bought some equip-ment that we didn't have.
At Pokhara, we hired some porters to carry equipment to points B and C.
And then Dorje chose six Sherpas as his subordinates. After that we headed to Pokhara, located at the foot of the Annapurna.

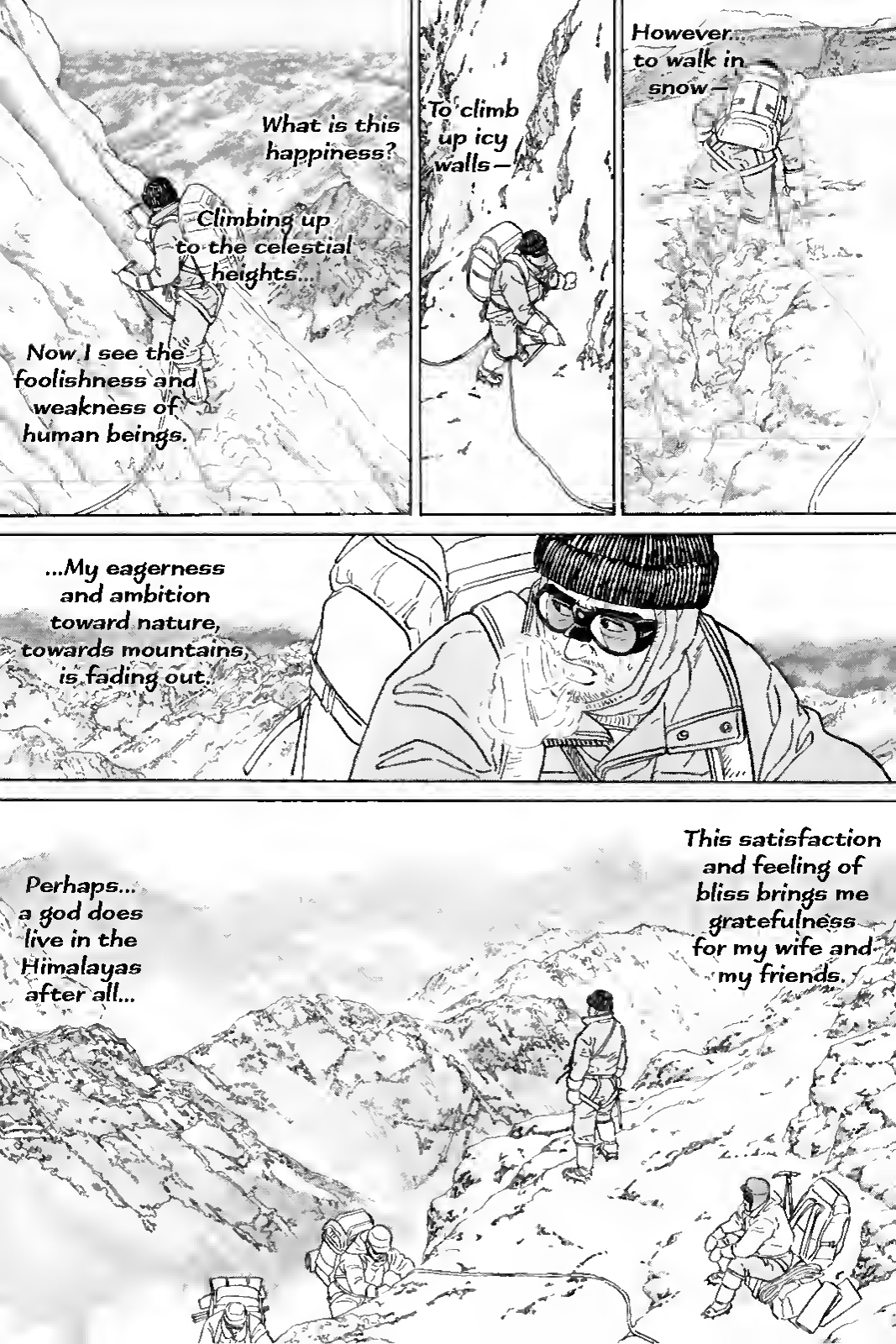
They're killed in India and Pakistan,
This is a Chango fur.
...
This is...
Ah!
We don't have a custom af hunting sa..
May be it's just religious differences.
They get poached too because their fur is sold at a high price.
since their livestock are attacked by them.
They're such beautiful creatures.
Changas still live in mountains at high altitude.
Althaugh there wauldn't be anything ta eat there,
That's why Changa is
like a mauntain gad ta us.


5th September, 1991. I started to climb up Annapurna for the second time. I was the only team member.
I wasn't as strong as I used to be, so I chose to avoid winter and went climbing in the post monsoon season (September to October) when the weather was relatively stable.

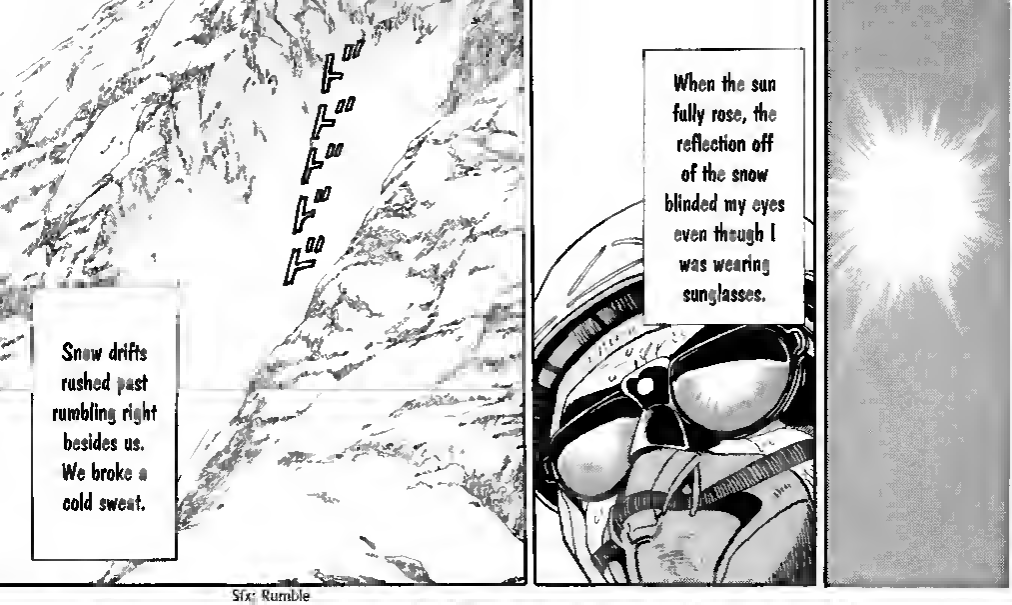
I stuck with the same route as last time.
Yeah.
I feel like I'll meet him again.
I hope you can see a Chango again, Oka-san.

One small mistake will drag you off to the world of dead.
Surely, the line between life and death is as thin as a knife's edge in this place.


I climb the Himalayas again to fulfill my selfishness... even though I'm over 40.


What is this happiness?
Climbing up to the celestial heights...
Now I see the foolishness and weakness of human beings.
To climb up icy walls—
However... to walk in snow—
...My eagerness and ambition toward nature, towards mountains, is fading out.
Perhaps... a god does live in the Himalayas after all...
This satisfaction and feeling of bliss brings me gratefulness for my wife and my friends.

There was a crescent moon... a slight breeze. It was very quiet.
23rd September, 3:00am. I left the last camp for the summit of Annapurna with Dorje, the head Sherpa.
The wind picked up. Snow dust begins to swirl.
Thanks to the good weather, our climb sped up.
Our two shadows lengthened by the faint sunlight of daybreak.


トトトト

When I got on top of the wall, I saw the peak beyond the ridge line.
We climbed up the icy wall in order to get to the ridge line of the peak.
The snow on the ground was hard. The tips of my climbing iron stuck into it well.
Haa
Haa
We're almost there.
Oka-san
It was as if Dorje's encouraging voice was pulling me up, I climb up one step after another.
The wind at the ridge line blew even stronger. I kept my balance so I wouldn't be blown away.
The wind died suddenly.
The clouds cleared out and there was nothing above us. An ultramarine sky...

It's so calm...
...
this is the first time I've seen the Himalayas like this...
Oka-san,
Thank you, Dorje.
Haa
Haa
Captain, please, after you.

I stepped onto the summit of Annapurna; the "Goddess of the Harvests" that I dreamed of.
23rd September, 1991, 2:18pm. Temperature: -37° Celsius. Weather: clear. Altitude: 8,091 meters.

I stand on the Promised Land.
Thank you, Dorje.
It's all because of your help.
You're amazing.
Congrat-ulation, Oka-san.
My eyes suddenly tear up...
When you're climbing a mountain, your love of the mountains is important.
And in order to come back alive, you must be loved by the mountain—

AH!
...
LOOK!!
Oka-san!
...You...
That pure white figure shines silver in color, telling us to return home alive.

List of First
Publication Dates:
Raising a Dog
Big Comic June 25th 1991
And Then... Caring for a Cat
Big Comic, December 25th 1991
View of the Backyard
Big Comic, April 10th 1992
Three People's Days
Big Comic, September 25th 1992
Promised Land
Big Comic July 25th 1992

Thus "Inu wo Kau" was born granting a small wish I had. Originally I wanted to portray the tale of the dog from when he was a pup to his death, but it was too elaborate for a short story. Then I decided to focus on the days he suffered most in his dying year. This significantly condensed the story, giving it a good tempo and a suspenseful theme, which all together resulted in a much better story.

The only thing I wish I could've done differently was to put in a few more panels that were relaxing. I also came to learn how difficult it was to draw a story that was so strongly tied to my own feelings.

It wasn't very long after the death of my dog that I started working on the piece. I could almost feel the dog's breathing; it was hard sometimes. Looking at the dying dog, all we could think of was if he was suffering. Together with my wife, we kept contemplating the option of euthanizing him. The vet told us that he was not suffering, as he was in a state of sleep. Upon hearing that, we decided that as long as the dog wished to keep on living, we would do anything we could to help him.

I was overwhelmed by the response to the manga (after its first publication in the magazine). The manga also won the Shogakukan Award Juries' Award, as well as later on getting compiled into its own titled comic book. One after another, all these things I never even dreamt of became reality. Inu wo Kau became a significant piece of work that has colored my entrance to the manga world, leading me to confidently explore a new arena. It has been a newfound happiness for me.

This book is a collection of some of my short stories published in Big Comic. Without the Big Comic editorial board's assistance, none of this would've been possible. More specifically, this is thanks to Mr. Setou Toshiaki's dedication in putting it all together into this anthology. I thank him from the bottom of my heart.

On another note, *Yakusoku no Chi* (Promised Land) wouldn't have become possible without the help of Mr. Kawamura Keisuke, a renowned climber. He had kindly shared his experiences and advice for adapting to the high altitudes, as well as his pictures. I am obliged to extend my gratitude to him.

Last but not least, to our dear late dog, I send him my heartfelt gratitude.

September 13th, 1992

TANIGUCHI JIRO

LOOKING BACK...

Keeping a pet has become a trend in many Japanese households these past few years. Mine is no exception. We have three cats patrolling our house, but we also used to keep a dog. I had dreamed of keeping a dog ever since I was small. I pictured myself and the dog running up hills and frolicking on vast green fields. Only when I actually got to keep one did I realize that keeping a living thing was such hard work. It wasn't simply "keeping a pet," but it was more like "living with an animal."

The hardest work when it comes to dogs is taking them out for walks. It could be one of the highs of keeping a dog, but having to do it every day, without fail, can be trying. From twice a day it became three times a day. Be it a rainy, windy, or even a snowy day, we took him out for walks without fail. When they are young, dogs jump at the opportunity for a walk, regardless of the weather. I have to say, it was a royal pain. It never crossed my mind that taking a dog for walks would be such a burden. Not until I'd kept one.

Dogs would never defecate around their kennels. They would wait patiently until they get a chance to go out for a walk. Dogs live to run. Also, it seemed I never thought of the difficulty of keeping an old, dying dog.

Two years ago, we lost our pet dog that had lived close to fifteen years. Seeing the dog slowly dying from old age caused changes to the little creative cells within me. For some reason, I felt the need to preserve the life and death of this dog through my work. However, to be honest, I was also worried whether a mediocre story like this, which is a daily occurrence, would be acceptable in a business-oriented manga magazine.

It happened that I received a call from a former editor telling me he was transferred to Big Comic from the youth department. "How do you feel about publishing a short story in Big Comic?" he asked.

It was 1990, November the 29th. A date I would never forget. It was a cold, rainy day, close to a month after my dog passed away. We met up at a cafe in Shinbo-machi. As I sipped the warm, charcoal roasted coffee, I told him the story of this dog.

"All right. Let's do it."

"I'm sure it will turn out nicely—"

"It's the perfect timing for such a manga."

—I was encouraged further by his enthusiastic response.

犬を飼う

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